

VOLUNTEER VOICE

Friends of Airedale Hospital Volunteer Newsletter

THE GIFT OF GIVING

It's been a 'Summer of Giving' for the Friends!

Following the Trustees' decision to award grants to six hospital departments, two official presentations have been made – with more in the pipeline. Ward 20 has taken delivery of a new TV along with a 50% contribution for eight new patient chairs – while The Oaks Resource Centre in Keighley now has a specialist exercise bike thanks to FoA funding.

Said chairman Alison Dixon: "This is what the Friends is all about! We're delighted to be able to help all these departments buy the sort of much needed extras that improve life for patients while they are in hospital."

Also being presented soon is a much-needed new sofa for the patient's day room for Ward 19 (elective surgery); some new sensory/distraction toys for Ward 17 (children's ward); display boards for the Chaplaincy; and we're also investigating the best way to install a new drinks machine for day patients receiving chemotherapy treatment on the HODU Ward.

See inside for more details about the presentations made to date.



Members of the Ruth Barrow Line Dancing Group present the cheque to Jan Turner on behalf of the Friends of Airedale

HOWZAT! dancers line up to help the friends

Our charity is £500 better off thanks to a donation from members of the Keighley/Skipton area Ruth Barrow Line Dancing Groups.

Dancing enthusiasts presented the Friends with the cheque at their monthly 'Owzitstart' social event at Sutton Baptist Church on September 5.

Said Ruth, who runs line dancing classes around the area: "We regularly donate money raised through raffles at our monthly social dance to local charities. One or two of our members work as volunteers for the Friends and asked if we could make this particular donation to their charity. We were delighted to do as the hospital is important to us all."

Said FoA Trustee Jan Turner, who accepted the cheque on behalf of the charity: "We are most grateful to Ruth and her line dancers for this donation which will help us make a real difference to patients and visitors going forward. I was delighted to join the line dancers to accept the cheque and it was clear that many people there held both the hospital and the Friends in high regard."

CAR BOOT UPDATE



This year's car boot sales – held monthly throughout the Summer – have raised a total of 2,312.09. This compares to £2,835.87 in 2023 and £2,934.09 in 2024. Well done to Roger Menary and his team – a great result!

FRIENDS OF AIREDALE BRING A TOUCH OF COMFORT TO SURGICAL WARD

The Friends have brought a little added comfort to Ward 20, the surgical day ward, with a new TV for the patient lounge and replacement chairs for around the unit.

The TV was presented to ward staff by chairman Alison Dixon who said: "We know what a difference it can make to patients to have a TV to watch – it can be a great distraction while awaiting surgery."

Senior Sister for Ward 20, Sharon Golson said: "We were over the moon when we heard that the Friends would fund the cost of a new TV, as well as pay half towards the much-needed replacement chairs. Quite a lot of our patients sit in the day room to have infusions, so having something to watch or music to listen to really helps the time go by for them. Other people may be feeling

quite anxious ahead of surgery, so the TV offers a perfect distraction. We're really pleased that the Friends were able to supply this for us."



Friends of Airedale Chairman Alison Dixon – left – presents the new TV to Ward 20 staff seen l-r Matron Sherie Herpe, Sister Victoria Weller, ward clerk Joan Carter, Senior Sister Sharon Golson and Sister Lissy Joseph

UNDERCOVER STORY

This beautiful, handmade crocheted blanket, has been gifted to the Friends of Airedale by an anonymous donor. And it could be yours!

Measuring approximately 5ft x 5ft, the painstakingly crafted bed cover arrived in the post, clearly addressed to the Friends. But mysteriously, the only clue we have about where it came from was a piece of paper inside which says, 'crocheted in Cumbria'.

If anyone reading this can shed some light on our mystery donor, then do get in touch! Or if you are

the anonymous donor who would rather not come forward, a huge thank you - the contribution is greatly appreciated.

Finally, if you would like to own this fabulous blanket, then get in touch and make us an offer, bearing in mind the sheer amount of work that went into creating the cover – and that the wool alone is worth nearly £50! The highest 'bid' received by end of play on December 4 when we hold our annual Christmas Raffle in the main entrance area of the hospital, will be the lucky new owner.



Craftmakers crack it!

The Friends 'crack' team of fundraisers – led by Joan Godfrey – had its most successful day yet with a craft makers stall in the hospital main entrance.

The September 4 event featured a range of hand knitted and crocheted goods which clearly proved a winner with passing patients, visitors and staff – a total of £531.30 was raised. Said Joan: "This is the largest amount we've ever raised at a single event – our next target is £600!"

If you'd like to help the team smash their target (or volunteer to help out) the next event is the annual Christmas Raffle, to be held in the main entrance area of the hospital, on December 4. For more information see the 'Undercover Story' above.



Seen l-r, Joan Godfrey, Janet Airdrie and Sue Bateson man the stand in the main entrance

New worship opportunity

Volunteers now have two opportunities each month to find out more about the Quakers, thanks to a new initiative between the chaplaincy team and Sipton Quakers.

On the second Monday of each month, between 12pm and 12.30pm and again from 1pm to 1.30pm, anyone interested can experience Quaker prayer and worship in the hospital chapel. There will also be an opportunity to learn about the Quaker way of worship and living during the lunch break in the chaplaincy quiet room from 12.30 – 1pm.

Celebrating nearly 250 years of volunteer service

We celebrated 245 years of dedicated service with the presentation of long service certificates to 18 volunteers.

The awards were made at the recent AGM at Glusburn Institute Community and Arts Centre on September 15.

Clocking up a whopping 25 years was Roger Menary who organises the monthly car boot sales during the summer months. In the past three years alone these have raised over £8,000 for the charity.

Presenting the awards, chairman Alison Dixon said: "It is an honour and a privilege to present these awards each year. As a charity we are dedicated to improving the patient and visitor experience at Airedale but

without the loyalty and commitment of our many volunteers, this simply would not be possible. We are proud of them all."

In addition to Roger's 25 year certificate, other milestones of service recognised went to:

20 years – Andrew Markham, Jennifer Pratt, Denise Wilson.

15 years – Valerie Bulleyment, Rodney Fall, John Lofthouse, Maureen Pearce, Sandra Swindells, Margaret Wood.

10 years – Stephen Clayton, Mark Freeman, Abdul Ghafoor, Mohammed Hanif, Jean Phillips, Martin Wright.

5 years – Jack Booth, Theresa Ingham.



Jennifer Pratt seen receiving her 20 year long service award



John Lofthouse receives his 15 year award



Rodney Fall receives his 15 year award



Andrew Markham receiving his 20 year service certificate

**Roger Menary
– 25 years of
volunteer service
recognised by
the Friends of
Airedale**



Physio bike presentation

FRIENDS GET WHEELS IN MOTION FOR KEIGHLEY

Wheels were set in motion when physiotherapists at Keighley's The Oaks Resource Centre, asked if the Friends could supply a specialist exercise bike to help with patient rehabilitation.

The centre offers outpatient physiotherapy in the community and needed an exercise bike that was easily accessible for less mobile people.

The £1,000 piece of equipment was presented to Team Lead Physiotherapist Keir Mackie by Trustee Jan Turner. Said Keir: "This will be an incredibly useful piece of equipment for the centre and is likely to be used most days as part of exercise classes we run from here as well as in one-to-one sessions with patients."

Said Jan: "We were delighted to step in and help Keir and the team – they seemed genuinely thrilled to take delivery of the new bike which couldn't be funded through usual NHS channels."

GARDEN DELIGHTS

The winners of the annual **Courtyard Competition** have been announced with a 'courtyard of glorious colour' chosen to receive the **£200 garden centre voucher first prize**.

Anne Robertson, who heads a small team of garden volunteers in the hospital's Electro-Medical Engineering department, was awarded 'Gold' in the competition which aims to encourage staff around the hospital to keep the building's courtyard areas looking attractive for the benefit of patients, visitors and staff.

Lead judge and head guide John Lofthouse said: "Anne and the team have created a truly lovely outside space filled with flowers and colours that is a delight to see when walking along the hospital corridors. It makes such a difference when the courtyards look loved and cared for."

Because of ongoing building works at Airedale, this year's competition focussed on 'innovation'. Scaffolding in many of the courtyard areas meant this year's entrants were restricted to planting in existing flower beds or pots and had to avoid planting anything against walls or in the ground.

Judges felt the Therapy Admin team, led by Nicola Stone and winners of the Silver award, had managed the difficulties of scaffolding particularly well with a colourful display of garden furniture, stone flags and decorative kites. They described the kites in their still-scaffolded Wellbeing Courtyard as "suggesting freedom, uplift and hope".

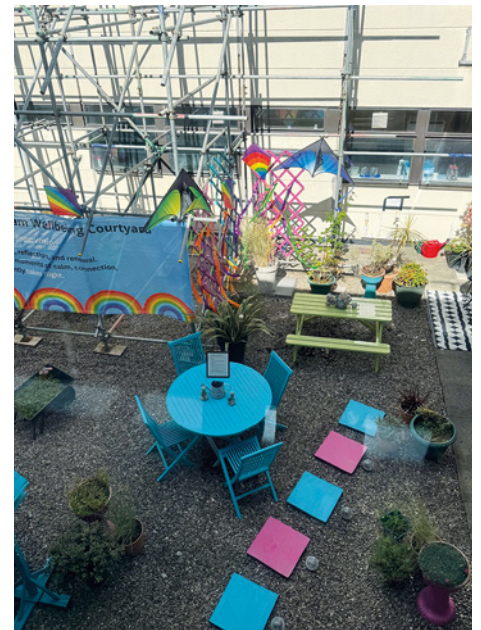
The Bronze award went to the Nursery Rhyme garden created by Sahdya Mushtaq around the children's outpatient department. Judges felt it was both 'fun and engaging' with a wealth of detail that would hold the interest of youngsters visiting the department.



Childrens outpatients Nursery Rhyme garden



Anne Robertson – left – receives the winning garden token prize from judges John Lofthouse and Sue Ingham



Therapy Admin Courtyard

Said John: "It was a really difficult decision this year as these three garden areas were all quite different in both scale and approach but each had winning merit. The competition is just another way in which the Friends

work to encourage a better experience for patients and visitors to the hospital and we're delighted that there are still staff working here who are prepared to put in their own time and effort to create these amazing spaces."



Our cafe volunteers are vital to what we do. Seen here are just two - Debra Woodwiss – left – and Jennifer Martin