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VOLUNTEER VOICE

Friends of Airedale Hospital Volunteer Newsletter

£30K LIFT FOR PATIENT CARE

The Friends of Airedale is to fund a whopping £30,000-plus for a new round of patient handling equipment for the hospital's Manual Handling provision.

Trustees approved the grant this summer. It is being used to provide two air inflating lifting devices costing £18,621 along with two different types of standing/transfer aids, costing £12,834.

It is the second time the charity has supplied the service with GBUK Flo Jac Air Inflating lifting devices. Back in January 2024, the Friends presented the manual handling team with three of the inflatable fall recovery solutions, worth £20,000. They are designed to help clinicians safely retrieve patients weighing up to 500kg from the floor.

The Molift Transfer Pro and Molift Riser Pro standing aids will support patients who are able to participate in their transfers, helping to promote independence, mobility and rehabilitation, while reducing manual handling risks.

Said manual handling lead Matt Dickinson: "The air inflating lifting equipment that the Friends generously funded two years ago is accessible across the entire Trust. Around 77% of staff who may need to use the equipment



are now trained in its operation – and our colleagues in Urgent Care, where one of the three Flo Jac devices is hosted, confirm that the device is used for the majority, if not all, falls retrievals in their area.

"We are extremely grateful for your continued support and commitment to improving patient care, enhancing the patient experience, and promoting the wellbeing and safety of our staff. Your contribution will make a meaningful and lasting difference in the Trust."

The new devices are due to be delivered to the department sometime in September.

See inside for more about how we've been able to help the hospital over the Summer.

SEE YOU AT THE AGM!

Don't forget – the Friends of Airedale AGM will be held on Monday September 14 at the Glusburn Institute & Community Arts Centre.

This year, for the first time, coach transport has been arranged for those who would like a lift from the hospital to the Institute. You can book a place by emailing admin@friendsofairedale.co.uk

Another first for the AGM is the chance to hear three volunteers talk about their work at the hospital.

They are long-time guide leader John Lofthouse, Denise Haley who will talk about her work with the Dignity Room and fundraising supremo Joan Godfrey.



THE GREAT SUMMER GIVEAWAY...



The new HODU drinks machine: Joan Godfrey – left – and Shirley Moorehouse

DRINKS ON THE HOUSE

Airedale's haematology and oncology day unit (HODU) now has its own shiny new barista-style drinks machine.

Thanks to the Friends of Airedale, the £700-plus, up-to-the-minute coffee and hot chocolate maker, has now been installed on the ward where patients are often on the unit for up to eight hours. Specific treatments also require a hot drink prior to leaving the unit to prevent a bronchial spasm.

Said volunteer Shirley Moorehouse, who has worked on the ward for 24 years and does three mornings a week: "As well as providing much needed refreshment for patients, we also offer a hot drink to any accompanying family members.

"Something as simple as a familiar face offering drinks and snacks can make a real difference to people at a difficult time."

The cost of the machine was largely funded by a donation to the Friends from members of the Keighley/Skipton area Ruth Barrow Line Dancing Groups who hold regular raffles in aid of local charities. Group member and FoA Trustee Joan Godfrey asked if fellow line dancers would be willing to meet the cost of the drinks machine for the day unit and a cheque for £500 was presented to the charity shortly afterwards.

Said Joan: "I'm delighted the dancing group was able to make this donation. The drinks machine is already making a real difference to patients and visitors on the ward."

Friends bring comfort to a close

Relatives spending final hours with a loved one can now do so in comfort – thanks to the Friends.

The hospital charity has paid for eight palliative chairs which are now on wards around the building. Costing more than £1,000 each, the deep-cushioned, recliner chairs ensure that anyone spending long hours, or even days, with a dying relative, can now do so in comfort.

Said end-of-life support assistant Karen Jones: "We are incredibly grateful to the Friends of Airedale. These chairs will make an enormous difference to the family and friends of very poorly patients who often spend many hours, through the day and night, at the side of a loved one during their final hours.

"Although in the past we have been able to offer comfortable chairs to them, our small stock had deteriorated and dwindled to just one available chair for the whole hospital. It meant many people spending hours at a time sitting, and even sleeping, on hard chairs. We've even had cases of people lying on mattresses on the floor to get comfortable – not ideal as it meant they couldn't be physically close to the person in the hospital bed."

Karen was so concerned about the lack of comfortable chairs for visitors keeping vigil, that she started fundraising herself with a raffle, cake stall and approaching local businesses.

Said palliative care lead Nichola Tullett: "We needed 16 chairs in total and thanks to Karen's efforts, the Friends and other donations, we have now achieved that goal. We have one on each ward around the hospital and four kept centrally in case more than one chair is needed on a ward at any point. They are already making a huge difference – people can get really comfortable and even have a quick snooze while staying very close to their loved one."

The smart blue chairs supplied by the charity have each been given the name of a flower – Violet, Poppy, Primrose, Bluebell, Lily, Daisy, Willow and Rose. The name is featured on a small, engraved metal plaque on the top of each chair which also credits the Friends of Airedale with the donation.

The presentation was made to Karen and Nichola by FoA chair Alison Dixon.



Alison Dixon - left - presents one of the eight palliative chairs to Karen Jones and Nichola Tullett - seated



Patient Trish Pepper enjoys a spot of TV as FoA chair Alison Dixon presents one of three televisions to Senior Sister Kaylie Waddell

TV HEAVEN

Patients on Ward 13 (Elective Orthopaedics) have received “a real boon” after the Friends provided three new smart TV’s and stands for each bay.

Trustees granted £850 to cover the cost of the televisions which have quickly become a hit among patients waiting for hip, knee and other orthopaedic procedures.

Said Trish Pepper of Earby who was on the ward when FoA chair Alison Dixon presented the TVs to Senior Sister Kaylie Waddell: “Having a television on the bay is an absolute boon for anyone waiting to go down for surgery or recovering from it. I’ve been able to watch the athletics while recovering from my operation and its made a huge difference to my days here.”

Said Kylie: “We’re so grateful to the Friends of Airedale for providing the TVs. They are a fantastic distraction for patients and have proved a massive hit.”

GAME ON!

Acute Assessment Unit patients now have many more ‘sensory distractions’ thanks to a £350 FoA grant to buy much-needed games and crafts.

Designed to help patients living with dementia or those needing enhanced care, the new supply of radios and activity goods aim to help keep patients calm and distracted.

Said Pauline Swales, Dignity and Dementia Champion on AAU: “Thank you to everyone involved with Friends of Airedale for this equipment. It will be used by our staff to support therapeutic interaction with patients on the ward. We use activities to help keep patients engaged, provide cognitive stimulation, reduce boredom and anxiety, and support patients who may

be living with dementia or experiencing confusion.

“These activities can make a real difference to a patient's hospital experience, helping to promote wellbeing, encourage social interaction, and provide meaningful engagement during their stay.”



Sensory activities for AAU – seen left Matron Tracy Jessop with AAU Senior Sister Lydia Brooks



Sensory activities for AAU – seen with Healthcare Support Workers Karolina Day – left – and Chloe Rossiter

...AND GIFTED TO THE FRIENDS

SPIRIT OF KINDNESS

The Friends of Airedale has received a £10,000 windfall – thanks to two former Airedale hospital staff.

Christine Roberts and Lyn Woodyatt, who both worked at the hospital for many years, are also Trustees of the former Skipton Spiritualist Church. The 100-year-old church closed during COVID and when proceeds from the sale of the building were finally wrapped up this year, it was agreed that the Friends, along with two other local charities, should be the beneficiaries.

Said Christine, who worked as a nurse at the hospital for more than 50 years, much of it in the neo natal unit: “Very sadly, after more than 100 years of serving the local community, the church on Romille Street in Skipton had to close. The three remaining trustees – two of us being retired hospital staff – agreed that the Friends was one of the charities which should benefit from the

sale of the building. The hospital – where Lyn worked in the pathology lab – is particularly close to our hearts.” Christine has also been a main entrance shop volunteer with the FoA.

Said chairman Alison Dixon: “This was a most unexpected and generous donation and we’re delighted that the church trustees chose the Friends as one of the beneficiaries. £10,000 is a significant amount of money and will enable us to make a real difference to the hospital experience for patients and visitors.”

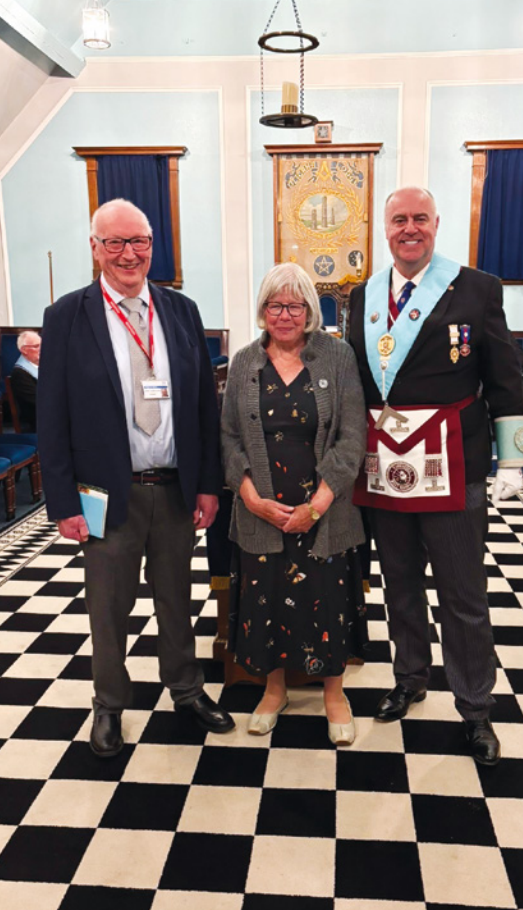


Spirit of Kindness - Christine Roberts



WELCOME CUPPA

Friends have received a donation of £350 from a lady whose husband was looked after at Airedale. They were so grateful for the use of a tea trolley during the stay that they requested that the money be used towards a further tea trolley or similar facility.



Freemasons presentation

NEW FRIENDS OF FRIENDS

Friend's chair Alison Dixon and volunteer guide leader John Lofthouse were honoured guests of the Olicana Freemason's Lodge when they attended a dinner at Ilkley's Masonic Hall.

The invitation followed news earlier this year that the Lodge had named the FoA as its charity of the year.

Worshipful Master Darren Marchment extended the invitation to Alison and John as an opportunity to tell members of the Lodge more about the work of the Friends.

Said Alison: "It was a lovely evening. John spent about 20 minutes giving a talk about the history of the charity, its aims and the many varied roles of our volunteers. We were then invited to join the Lodge members for dinner."

FUNdraising Roundup

Trustee Joan Godfrey and her team of tireless helpers have had another busy round of fundraising throughout the summer.

Kicking off with a 'prize every time' Lucky Dip on May 14, some £273.14 rolled in (£127 from the Lucky Dip plus the sale of jigsaws and knitted items). Prizes included everything from big bars of chocolate to candles, soft toys, scarves, jewellery, books, mugs, and even a small bottle of wine.

Days later (on May 28), a knitting /craft stall raised a further £348.81. Said Joan: "We saw such generosity from our customers with some paying in excess of the expected donations for our knitwear. We even had a £20 donation from a patient because of the lovely smiling faces of the Main Entrance Shop volunteers who had served him daily.

"Another young man who bought two baby hats (a total of £1) insisted on giving us £10 for them. He was a new dad and was buying them for his twin sons who were still on the maternity unit with their mum".

Next up was the Teddy Bear's Picnic Tombola on July 9 when 57 teddies/furry friends, plus six hampers were up for grabs.

"It couldn't have been held on a nicer summer's day," said Joan. "We brought the outside in with all our furry friends sat on grass, singing along to the famous Teddy Bear's Picnic song". The event raised the grand sum of £379.

A knitting/craft stall on August 13 raised a further £203. Joan's next big, themed event will be a Halloween Tombola on October 22.

Sincere thanks to all who supported the events, with a special mention to Morrisons supermarket for their generous donation. Also, all volunteer knitters, the person who generously donates name tags and posters for the tombolas as well as the lady who generously bakes the centre piece cake. Plus, everyone who donated prizes for the tombola.



Knitting and craft stall manned (from l-r) by Janet Airdrie Brends Atkins and Janet Knockton



Meerkat Marvels made for the August 13 craft stall



Teddy Bears Picnic

