



# Bodmin Hospital League of Friends

## Newsletter

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I could start by saying this year has been pretty fraught with the need to postpone the fete in June, but I should temper this by noting that, out of a disaster, came much positivity – people were so sympathetic, helpful and supportive. Lady Molesworth immediately offered Pencarrow as a venue to sell the cakes and plants that had been produced for the fete and this took place on the day following the planned fete, bringing a very healthy income.

Prior to that, in April, we had very kindly been invited by Mark and Linda Lawlor of Bodmin Nursery to, once again, serve refreshments during the two days of their Spring Saver Weekend in April – two days when the weather was absolutely perishing with a gusting easterly wind. Even so, with a good old stiff upper lip, we had a fun weekend and raised over £1,300 for our funds.

In May, Vic Luke led another walk combined with a litter pick, this time from Rock all the way to Port Isaac for those who had the staying power, while many dropped off in Polzeath and Doyden; it was a beautiful spring day and a most enjoyable way to raise funds. Once again, a huge thank you to Vic for organising and leading this.

In June, Tony Ryde approached us to ask if we could help with the catering for a series of Open Garden events he was planning during that month at his beautiful Fletchers Bridge home, specifically to raise money for Sowenna. We did the teas on one of the days, any money we took from this was for BHLF funds, and we also helped on one of his evening soirees. All in all that month Tony raised over £5000 for Sowenna, his aim having been £2500!

In September we were invited to see around the newly opened Sowenna, a 14 bedded Adolescent Mental Health unit – this is a wonderful facility to have at Bodmin Hospital and it has been superbly completed.

### **The Fete – eventually!**

After having had to postpone the fete in June, a date was finally agreed - 21<sup>st</sup> September and we must say such a big thank you to Cornwall Council and Bodmin Town Council, especially Mayor Jeremy Cooper, for making this possible.

After a couple of weeks of perfect weather, a

gale blew up on the day the big marquee was being erected, and stayed with us. On the Saturday it was blowing a hooley (the weather hasn't been kind to us this year at all!) interspersed with downpours, but, even so, it turned out to be a very happy, but soggy affair AND raised a considerable amount of money – in all, the takings for the fete were around £6000 before expenses!

Our hugely grateful thanks to our wonderful opener, Jill Murphy, who, in her busy life, had been booked for the June event, but managed to be available for September also. Enormous thanks too to all the businesses, friends and hospital staff, Bodmin Rotary and Lions who worked tirelessly to make it a memorable event; also to the wonderful groups who came to perform and to all those who supplied the entertainment. And, of course, to all the wonderful people who braved the weather to come to support the fete.

Particular mention must go to young Bobbie Roberts who opened the fete proceedings by playing World in Union on his keyboard, there was not a dry eye in the house! Bobby is the young quadraplegic son of Tina who is always so wonderful, giving her time, talent and expertise to be Master of Ceremonies for the fete, always free of charge.



*Bobby Roberts playing World in Union on his keyboard at the opening of the fete.*

**Photo by Adrian Jasper**

# Bodmin Hospital League of Friends - *Newsletter*

## Our website

To see lots of pictures of the fete and other details about BHLF go to our new website, designed and maintained by our Webmaster Brian Crank to whom we are extremely grateful for taking on this responsibility:

[www.bodminhospitalleagueoffriends.org](http://www.bodminhospitalleagueoffriends.org)

## Forthcoming events

Our AGM takes place on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2pm at Carew House, anyone wishing to attend do please contact me – contact details are at the end of this newsletter

We will be laying a wreath on Remembrance Sunday at the Bodmin Town War Memorial in Priory Park

On November 23<sup>rd</sup> we will have a stall at the Bodmin Lions Christmas Fair – come and say hallo and take a chance on Water or Wine!

In December we take part in the St Petrocs Church Christmas Tree Festival where we decorate a tree.

Also in December, close to Christmas, we will be singing Carols around the wards

Plans for next year? Richard Hamm of Bearnas Hampton & Littlewood has, very kindly, offered to do an Antiques Fake or Fortune corner at any function we put on, so we perhaps will plan a Soup & Dessert lunch in conjunction with this, we also plan a Car Boot Sale at some stage.

We have yet to find a site for the 2020 Fete!

## The Committee

We were very saddened by the passing of George Goodman in April. George had been a member of the BHLF committee since its inception and had also been a Trustee. He passed away just six months before his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

We are also very sorry that Peter Melmoth is standing down as Treasurer after having served 17 years in the post, his wisdom, humour and willingness to turn his hand to anything and everything will be sorely missed. However we are delighted that recently retired Christine Kennedy is taking over from him as Treasurer. Chris has been the Accounts Manager in a well respected local company for many years so she brings with her a wealth of experience as well a loads of enthusiasm – all the committee are delighted to welcome Chris 'on board'.

## Purchases made for the hospital

This year we have agreed to the following funding for the hospital:

**In January:** £663.16 for a dressings cabinet in MIU – this is the 4<sup>th</sup> such cabinet we have funded for MIU.

**In February:** £650.03 for materials to refurbish the

Healing Garden which BHLF had funded originally in 2008 and £549 for Out Patient's Department for 2 care tray trollies.

**In March:** £360 for 6 taster sessions with a fitness instructor for patients on Bowman Ward and £4,533.60 for 2 Sorrento Chairs for Harbour Ward.

**In April:** £500 for a 10 foot mural to be painted for Fletcher Ward by artist Jordan Lauder, together with some canvasses, the idea being to inspire patients with discharge/hopeful/positive messages – we have since heard that these paintings, displayed in the corridors of the ward, have been very much appreciated

**In May:** £860 for Fettle Ward to purchase an outdoor table tennis table and create an outside boules area; also £160 to purchase eight MP3 players for Harbour and Anchor Wards – we had previously agreed to a similar purchase which had been so popular that they wanted more patients to benefit.

**In July:** a further £3,240 for 6 months of coaching sessions with a fitness instructor for Bowman Ward, the taster sessions in March having been so successful. After 6 months it is hoped that members of staff will be able to take over the coaching.

If you would like to be involved and/or help at any of our events we would be hugely grateful. Just drop me an email, phone or complete the form below – we're a very friendly bunch and, we feel, fill an important role – raising money to buy services and equipment not supplied by the NHS for OUR LOCAL hospital.

And - most importantly - a huge thank you to everyone, both private individuals and all the local businesses and clubs who help and/or contribute in any way – without you we could not function.

Best wishes

*Ann*

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