



# Bodmin Hospital League of Friends

## Newsletter

Secretary:

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Following on from the last newsletter in October '22, we finally held our fundraising Last Night of the Proms concert in late October after its postponement because of the sad death of the Queen two days before the concert was originally planned. It was a fantastic night, Wadebridge Town Hall was packed and, as people were leaving, so many commented that they hoped we would do this again – so we are! On 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023 at Wadebridge Town Hall with the same cast as before: soloist Karen Hurn, the massed bands of St Breward, St Minver and Wadebridge under the direction of talented Musical Director Tom Howard, Wadebridge Male Voice Choir and Neil Caddy of Pirate FM as our compere – and we thank them all so much, they are all so talented and so much fun .



*Looking forward to this year's Last Night of the Proms Concert, the team: Compere Pirate FM's Neil Caddy, Soprano Karen Hurn and Musical Director of the massed bands, Tom Howard*

### Committee News

Normally Committee news comes towards the end of the Newsletter but we are truly saddened that our much loved previous Chairman, John Sampson died in February. 'John was a dear man, who, together with his beloved wife Dot, had contributed so much to, not only Bodmin Hospital League of Friends but to the whole society of Bodmin having given to so many causes through their unstinting desire to help others, including the patients at Bodmin Hospital. He will be very sadly missed.' These are the words of our Chairman Susie at our March committee meeting where we stood and observed two minutes silence to remember our dear friend.

On a happier note, at the AGM in November, three new members joined the committee: Jessica Finnemore, who had already been deeply involved last year, having taken over the organisation of the fete, Lyn Bendix and Karen Phillips; all the committee were absolutely delighted to welcome these three new members to the committee.

But then we were so sorry that Gill Wood, an absolute stalwart of the league of friends, has retired from the committee. Gill was often helped at BHLF fundraising events by her sisters, Hilary and Avril, they were such a

good 'team' and we say thanks to all three of them for their wonderful support over the past years.

Over the Christmas period we sang Carols around the wards again, the first time we had been able to since Covid, and this time the Lovenny Male Voice Choir joined us and were absolutely brilliant – they have promised to come again this year! We decorated a tree in St Petrocs Church as part of their Christmas Tree Festival and, as usual, we gave money to each ward to enable the staff to buy individual presents for each patient and we were told by enthusiastic staff how very much that was appreciated; so much so that Sowenna, the new Adolescent Mental Health unit which opened in 2019, invited the committee for a coffee morning to express their gratitude. During our visit the staff talked with passion about Sowenna, the challenges and rewards and showed us around this fantastic new facility which has ten general beds and two high dependency units for the young people of Cornwall and beyond.

### Forthcoming Events

Tony Ryde has again asked BHLF to do the catering for his **Open Garden at The Lodge, Fletchers Bridge**, this year over the weekend of **25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March** when his delightful garden will be open from 12.30 to 5.30 and we will be supplying light lunches and, of course CAKE!

### The Fete

17<sup>th</sup> June is the date, to be held at Fair Park, Westheath Avenue in Bodmin and to be opened at 1pm by **Johnny Cowling**.

This is one week earlier than usual and it will run for longer than usual. Jess has many of the arrangements already in hand:

Tina Roberts will MC the fete and she is planning a Bodmin's Got Talent show, Adie Dove and her young dancers KBSK will be there again and all the usual stalls and attractions: Family dog Show, Bouncy Castle, Bodmin Scouts will be doing burgers, Hugs Foundation will be there and stalls run by the hospital staff and League of Friends and their friends – if anyone is able to help please do get in touch.



### Our Website

Brian Crank, who has done a marvelous job over the past few years in setting up and running our website, has finally found it necessary to step down – we thank

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Brian enormously for the amazing work he has done. The management of it has now been taken over by a local firm Impress51 who have been very helpful. On the Website you can see many pictures from last year's fete and also get a link to view the whole of last year's Last Night of the Proms Revisited concert in a video made by Joe Driver of Cornwall Stress Free Television.

## **Donations**

We have continued to receive some very generous donations, many from grateful families or ex patients who have been treated at Bodmin Hospital, and some from local businesses, these include a recent cheque for £500 from Howdens, a donation of £656 from Lester Bale who raised this money from a bingo session at his business, the Welcome Stranger in Lanivet, a cheque of £1000 from Wadebridge Rotary Club as a result of their WHEELS event last year and a cheque for £1000 from the National Grid Benevolent Fund; also St Mabyn Garden Club very kindly donated the £75 takings from the raffle at their Christmas party which was very much appreciated



*Peter Bray of the National Grid Benevolent Fund presents a cheque of £1000 to BHLF Chairman, Susie Gore at our AGM back in November.*

## **Committee meetings**

Prior to Covid19 we held our monthly meetings in the Café Lounge at the hospital, but that space is now limited to only a few people, therefore we had to search elsewhere and, since February 2022 we have held meetings at the Lanivet One For All Community Hall which is an excellent and superb venue and we thank all the staff there for their help, support, efficiency and good humour - it is a remarkable place. Our meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month commencing at 10am, except in August and December when there is no meeting and in November the normal meeting follows the AGM usually during the second week of the month, also held at the Lanivet One For All Community Hall.

## **Purchases made for the hospital**

Over the past couple of years we agreed to the following funding for the hospital:

**In September 2021 we agreed to funding of £150** for the purchase of a vacuum cleaner and various cleaning materials for Bowman Ward for rehabilitation use.

**In November 21 we agreed to funding of £6000** to go towards the cost of three Rempods (Reminiscence Pods)

for Harbour Ward, that is a train, a potting shed and a Vintage Tea Room. Sister Julie Mackinnon had previously invited members of the committee to visit the ward to make it easier to envisage what she had in mind.

**In January 2022 we agreed to funding of £264** for 12 Food Safety and Hygiene level 2 courses for patients on Bowman Ward

**In September 2022** we agreed to funding of £8,574 for a Magic Table for Garner Ward and we are looking forward to being invited for a demonstration once it is in situ

**In October 2022** we have agreed to funding of £353.38 to purchase various items to create two self sooth boxes for the East Home Treatment Team.

Also in **October 22**, we released £1,438 of the funds donated by Lostwithiel Young Farmers for the Woodfield Stroke Rehabilitation Unit to purchase two iPads which are an invaluable aid with speech therapy following a stroke

**In February 2023** we agreed to funding of £2880 for Bowman Ward to replace the greenhouse which had originally been installed when the Healing Garden was created in 2008.

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.

We still have need of new committee members so if you have a bit of free time or if you are newly retired - **we need you!**

Finally 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.

With very best wishes

*Ann*

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