



Bodmin Hospital League of Friends

Newsletter

Secretary:

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bodminhospitalleagueoffriends.org

In October last year, once again, the massed bands of St Breward, St Minver and Wadebridge with their Musical Director Tom Howard came together with Wadebridge Male Voice Choir, directed by Gareth Stubberfield and the wonderful Soprano soloist Karen Hurn, compered by the incomparable Neil Caddy of Pirate FM to perform a Last Night of the Proms Revisited for us.

This wonderful group of performers gave their time again this year following many requests for a repeat of the 2022 concert. Unfortunately the night clashed with England playing in the semi finals of the Rugby World Cup which reduced the audience to a degree, but even so, nearly £1000 was raised and a very happy evening was had by all. As always so many thanks to all these amazing performers and also to all our wonderful families and friends who came to help.



On the stage in Wadebridge Town Hall: Karen Hurn and Neil Caddy with Tom Howard and the massed bands.

Then in November we laid a wreath on the War Memorial in Priory Park as part of the Remembrance Day ceremonies. In December we joined in the Christmas Tree Festival in St Petros Church with a tree decorated with various pictures of the year's activities; and we sang Carols around the Wards at Bodmin Hospital led by Lead Chaplin for the Cornwall NHS Foundation Trust, the Rev'd Kathy Brooke and accompanied by accordionist Mark Hawken and we were joined by the Lovenny Male Voice who added volumes to our singing!



Accordionist Mark Hawken with Mike Spong of Lovenny Male Voice Choir singing Carols around the wards at Bodmin Hospital

In February, the Friends of Pencarrow and the Molesworth-St Aubyn Family invited Bodmin Hospital League of Friends to be one of the charities to benefit from Snowdrop Weekend. Over the second weekend in the month, BHLF had the Saturday and Wadebridge Concern the Sunday, and both charities were given the Old Servants Hall in which to raise funds. BHLF did hot drinks with biscuits, tombola and a home produce stall and raised around £400 on the day. Takings on the gate were divided equally between Friends of Pencarrow, Wadebridge Concern and the Bodmin Hospital League of Friends and cheques of £1500 were presented to each charity at the Friends of Pencarrow AGM in March. On accepting the BHLF cheque, our Chairman Susie Gore, thanked both the Friends of Pencarrow, the Molesworth-St Aubyn family and the staff of Pencarrow, saying how appropriate that in the year of the loss of Iona, Lady Molesworth-St Aubyn who had been President of BHLF and a very active member of the committees of both BHLF and before that St Laurences Hospital, that BHLF should be invited to the Snowdrop weekend and raise such a fantastic amount for their funds to enable them to supply services and equipment for the staff and patients at the hospital which are not supplied by the NHS.

Shirley Kent, Chairman of Friends of Pencarrow, Susie Gore and Peter Brandreth, Treasurer of Friends of Pencarrow.



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Forthcoming events

Once again, we are delighted that Tony Ryde has invited us to do the catering for his **Open Garden for the NGS** – this will be **13th and 14th April**. Do come and to see his beautiful garden and enjoy a light lunch, cream tea or some of the beautiful cakes that are being made for us by friends and committee members. **The Lodge, Fletchers Bridge, Bodmin PL30 4AN, open from 12.30 to 5pm**

The Fete

It is planned for 22nd June at Fair Park as it has been the previous two years BUT as this newsletter goes to press the date and venue are in doubt. The ground at Fair Park was badly churned up by an event held there last year and Bodmin Town Council plans to rotavate and re-seed it but it will not be ready for June! We are trying to find an alternative site close to the hospital but, as we have been in a similar predicament in the past, we are not very hopeful that there is another suitable site. It's more likely will be postponed until September – keep watching our website for updates.

Grateful thanks

We continue to receive donations in memory of loved ones who have been cared for in Bodmin Hospital. And continue to receive cheques several times a year from the sale of home-made cards by a former patient as thanks for the wonderful care received at the hospital, several years ago now. We also received a generous cheque from the Camelot Ladies Darts Team being distribution of funds after their group was unable to re-convene following Covid

Committee news

At our AGM in November we were delighted that Jonathan Coode DL consented to become our President after the loss of Lady Iona. Jonathan's wife Judy had initiated the Bodmin Hospital Fete and had run it for many years. Accepting the position he said 'I feel very honoured, following in the footsteps of a great, great lady who will be such hard act to follow. I will do what I can but I think I will fail'. Far from it - he is the most wonderful and supportive President.

We were sad that long serving Committee Member and Trustee, Keith Searle, had stood down

We continue to held monthly meetings, normally on the first Thursday of the month, at the One and All Community Hall in Lanviet which, apart from not being in the hospital, is the most wonderful venue – many thanks to all the staff there.

Purchases made for the hospital

Over the past year we agreed to the following funding for the hospital:

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

In May 2023: £494 for Harvest Ward for a television and a Karaoke Machine which, we subsequently heard from the ward about how well the Karaoke machine had been used over Christmas, saying 'the League of Friends have made some patients on Harvest Ward very happy over Christmas!'

In September 2023: £117.15 to purchase for the Woodfield Stroke Rehabilitation Unit a Biozoom Air Flavoured device which creates a froth of various flavours, coffee for example, to enable a sense of taste for those who have lost the ability to swallow

In October 2023: £4,750 for purchase of airwave mattresses for Anchor and Harbour CATU (Community Assessment and Treatment Unit)

Also in October 23: £228.65 for Out Patients Dept to purchase a Wall Activity Centre and Wall stickers to make the Children's waiting area more child friendly.

In December as always, we supply cash for the staff to buy a present for each patient who is in hospital over Christmas – this is always very warmly received

In march 24 we agreed to funding of £375.07 to purchase items for two Self Soothe Boxes for the East Cornwall Home Treatment Team.

Also in March 24 we agreed to a request from Matron Denise Williams for £5208.15 to purchase and install a proper Reception Desk at the hospital entrance, More news on this once it is in place.

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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