

Friends of the Sheffield Children's Hospital

Registered Charity No. 503571

Patrons:

Rt. Hon. David Blunkett
Sean Bean
Richard McCourt



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SPRING NEWSLETTER 2019

2019 finds the Friends in fine fettle. We have, at last, moved into our new shop in Outpatients where it is proving to be very popular with patients, parents and staff. It's stock of a wide range of toys, stationery, cards, hand knitted baby clothes is going down well. Congratulations to Lynne and the hospital craftsmen for designing and producing such attractive premises. Our thanks must also go to the volunteers staffing the shop for their patience and resilience during the long time it took to make the move.

Our role in providing cheer for the children remains as important as ever. We respond to requests from all sections of the Children's Trust but most requests come from the play specialists and teachers. They are in the best position to advise us on the children's needs. Anxious children may need soothing, others stimulation. We not only give toys, videos, books, teaching materials but also respond to more unusual requests such as a special breast feeding chair for mothers with new born babies and special fridges for expressed breast milk. Every request is assessed.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of the public, much of it anonymous and coming in numerous small donations. Once again Ken Bramall and Carolyn West ably abetted by Beryl Owen organised a very successful Christmas raffle that raised £3,116. A record for us.



Beryl Owen and helper Luke Marsden selling books at Loxley School to raise funds for the Friends. Luke regularly receives treatment in the Hospital.



Staff with some of the Christmas toys for the Wards donated by the Friends

The AGM is at 12 midday on Wednesday 15th May 2019 in the Board Room of the Sheffield Children's Hospital. Jacqueline Griffith (Freedom To Speak Up Guardian) is giving a lecture. There will be refreshments and all will be welcome.

I hope 2019 will be good to all of you

Martin Steiner

Our charity is entirely run by volunteers and we are very fortunate to also receive funds from wide a range of organisations and individuals but most of our income is generated by the shop and raffle.

SHOP

Our new shop is now open! Situated in the new main entrance and Outpatients Department, the shop opened in August 2018. The new area is bright and airy and enables us to use the space to display goods to better advantage. As a result the shop takings have increased.

Our volunteers really enjoy working in the new space and we have had many positive comments from patients, parents and staff.



The new shop!



Some of our shop volunteers

We are fortunate to have many supporters who donate knitted items and other goods to sell in the shop, which helped to raise money for the Friends. This year the knitting alone has raised in excess of £3,000 . A huge thank you to you all

This year we have welcomed six new volunteers and we now have 40 volunteers working in the shop. Two of our long-standing volunteers left us: Sheila Walker after 27 years and Irene Walmsley after 32 years. We would like to thank them for their support and dedication to the Charity. Thank you to all our volunteers who work tirelessly to staff the shop.



The display of hand knitted items



Lynne and volunteer Norma Ashberry

Finally I would like to thank everyone who helped to set up the new shop and all of the volunteers who stayed with us during the difficult time in the temporary shop.

Lynne Hebblethwaite
Shop Co-ordinator

RAFFLE

This years Christmas Raffle was again administered by long standing Trustee and committee member Ken Bramall. The event raised £3100, which could not have been achieved without the hard work and support of other Committee members and Volunteers.

Lynne Hebblethwaite as well as selling tickets produced some distinctive Hampers. Caroline Hague (always on the end of phone) independently sold lots of tickets as did our Chairman, Martin Steiner. Carolyn West, our Secretary, was ever-present selling tickets on the Crystal Peaks Community Desk (along with Fred our "Singing in the Rain" dog who seemed to conjure sales when all seemed lost).



Shaila and Minnie who sold 80 raffle tickets at Nether Green School. Amazing!!



Beryl Owen always busy fund raising, canvassed some great prizes and special thanks are due to the following businesses for donating prizes this year:

P&A Jewellery, Sheffield Arena, Sheffield Shop, Napoleons, Sheffield United FC, Mercure Hotel Sheffield, Hathersage Swimming Pool, Montgomery Hall, The Peacock at Owlbar, Curzon Cinema, Cannon Hall Farm, Langlands Garden Centre, Sheffield City Hall, Hollywood Bowl Don Valley, The Entertainer Toy Shop, Owlerton Stadium, Kirklees Light Railway, Crystal Peaks



Martin with Chief Executive John Somers, who kindly drew the raffle prizes for us again this year



Ken Bramall and Caroline Hague of the Friends with Paul Bishop and his daughter Katie at the entrance to our new shop. Paul and Katie have donated to the hospital for many years

The object of our charity is to raise funds to help and support the welfare of the patients of the Sheffield Children's Hospital. We publicise the availability of funding throughout the hospital and we are always pleased to receive requests. No reasonable request is ever rejected and we are usually able to respond quickly to appeals for help.

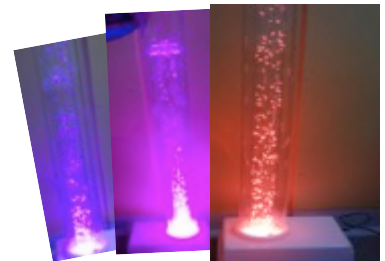
We have made over 40 donations this year and we continue to fund a wide range of projects and activities for the benefit of patients.

Here is just a sample of the many letters of appreciation we receive each year:

To the League of Friends,
Thank you so much for the money you have donated. We have bought some new toys and craft items for the children to play with (please see attached photo). We are very grateful and appreciate everything you do to support the children. I am sure they will have many happy hours playing with the toys and making things to pass their time while visiting our unit.
Kind regards
The team at the Child Assessment Unit



Narcolepsy Family Day funded by the Friends



Portable Bubble Tube distraction device provided for Oncology by the Friends

Membership of the Friends

Currently the Friends have 113 members. The minimum membership subscription is £2 per year; members receive an annual Newsletter and have the opportunity to attend the AGM.

Members are always welcome to help with fund raising events. We encourage members to join the committee and we welcome any applications.

Eileen Hills (Membership Secretary)



Volunteers Jeremy, Judith and Val wearing the distinctive uniforms funded by the friends

CONTACTS FOR THE FRIENDS

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