



THE FRIENDS OF THE HOSPITAL AT RYE

Spring 2024 Newsletter

Our Fête makes a welcome return!

Many of you will remember the Hospital Fête that was held annually until interrupted by the construction of the Hub on Rye Hill and then the Covid pandemic. We are very pleased to say that the Fête will be returning on Saturday 1st June. Behind the

scenes we are beavering away preparing to make it the best ever, so please 'Save the Date' and come along with friends and family.

A huge thank you goes out to all our volunteers, who continue to help us in so many ways and to our new recruits for 2024. We could not do as much as we do without you!

Please remember that if you have an unwanted gift or unused item that might make an ideal raffle prize we are more than happy to collect it from you, so do please contact Fran Clent by email at fundraising@ryehospital.org.uk or by calling 01797 228842.



Message from our Chair

Spring is springing and with it opportunities to join together in the name of the Charity and have fun whilst supporting our patients and clinical staff in the Hospital.

Fundraising activities last year achieved more than the target we had set ourselves. This means we can fulfil some of the ideas we have to make life more comfortable for patients and explore requests from the physiotherapists for improved equipment. We have published a list of our Friends' previous purchases on our website at <https://ryehospital.org.uk/friends/>.

We were very grateful to the Rotary Club of Senlac who



Fran Clent accepting our cheque from Dave Miles

presented us with a cheque following the successful Classic Car Show & Craft Fair held last summer. This event will return to Rye RFC on Sunday 16th June.

We started our year of events in March on an atrociously wet night when we held a Quiz Night at The Mermaid Inn. In spite of the weather it was very well attended and everyone was in good spirits.



Members of the winning Quiz Team

We now hope for a beautiful spring evening on 5th April when we will host a Fashion Bazaar at St Mary's Hall, Udimore.

As always, we try to find activities that will appeal to everyone, so please keep looking on our website <https://ryehospital.org.uk/event/> or follow us on Facebook, Instagram or X (Twitter).

For those who haven't met me, I am your new Chair of Friends and Fundraising. I'm not exactly new to the Hospital as I have been on the Board of Trustees for nine years, so am familiar with how things run! However, Fran Clent, our Company Secretary, is the voice at the end of the phone, or email. We really value our 'Friends of the Hospital at Rye' and love to hear from you, so please keep in touch.

I look forward to meeting you during the year.

Jacky Dudfield

If you would like to join our volunteer team or help at one of our fundraising events, please contact fundraising@ryehospital.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Monday 6th May
Boot Fair at Jempson's Peasmarsh

Saturday 1st June
Summer Fete, Memorial Centre

Sunday 16th June
Winchelsea Open Gardens

Wednesday 28th August
Charity Golf Day, Rye Golf Club

Bringing services closer to home

Message from the Chairman of the Board

The Hospital's Decarbonisation Project has been formally recognised and has earned the contractor, DMA Group, the Energy Saving Award 2023 for Hospital and Health Service Project of the Year. The award was presented in December 2023. DMA Group is very proud of this achievement and appreciates the recognition of its and the Charity's determined efforts in energy saving.



Barry Nealon at the Energy Saving Awards 2023 with member of DMA Group

We are delighted to confirm the appointment of our new CEO, Charlotte Kneer MBE DL, who will join the team on Monday 8th April.

Charlotte will be working very closely with the Board of Trustees to map out a five-year plan for the Charity. We are very pleased to be welcoming such an experienced and enthusiastic leader.

Progress has been made in discussions with Greensleeves to ensure the Care Home construction starts this year.

Barry Nealon

Hospital News

Having joined the team at the beginning of March, I have been kept very busy whilst settling into my role as the new Matron at Rye. My background is within Cardiology, having worked on the Coronary Care Unit at the Conquest Hospital since qualifying as a Registered General Nurse in 2015 and in the last two years leading the team as Matron. I am excited to be starting with the team at Rye and thank you all for giving me such a warm welcome.

The team has been working very hard to cope with the recent staff shortages. These include Pauline Wood (Sister) who has gone to work in Pre-Assessment at the Conquest, and Kelly Morton-Shaw (Integrated Support Worker) who has joined a local Urgent Community Response team. At the end of this month we will also sadly lose Mary Christine Sanchez (Staff Nurse) who will be moving to the Conquest's Accident and Emergency department. The recruitment for these posts is ongoing and we hope to fill these vacancies soon.



John Hernandez enjoying a break

Members of our Housekeeping staff attended a poignant memorial led by Jacky Dudfield in honour of John Hernandez who sadly passed away on 15th September last year. Although I did not have the pleasure of working alongside John, I know that those who did held him in the highest regard and miss him very much. Fond memories were shared and John's memorial bench was unveiled.

NHS and Charity staff test out John's bench



We are very lucky to have been chosen by two local Pets As Therapy (PAT) dog owners who will be bringing their lovely dogs on to our ward on a regular basis. It is so



Ian and Lilah

comforting for our patients to be able to spend time with Lilah and Lily, especially if they are missing their own pets. Our staff are equally pleased to make a fuss of our new four-legged friends. Thank you to Ian and Pam for sharing Lilah and Lily with us!



Lily the PAT dog

I understand that our wonderfully generous Friends have already funded the purchase of new garden furniture and I look forward to seeing (and hopefully enjoying) the new gazebo on the patio this summer together my new colleagues and our patients.

**Nichola Hastings
Matron**

