



THE FRIENDS OF THE HOSPITAL AT RYE

Christmas 2024 Newsletter

Ringling in the changes

never change, however, is our appreciation of the support received from our Friends which will be even more important to us as we embark on a new chapter for our Charity.

Richard Adams has once again produced a wonderful design for this year's Christmas cards. Packs are available from Adams in Rye, The Hub on Rye Hill or directly from the Charity if you contact Fran Clent on 01797 228842 or fundraising@ryehospital.org.uk. If you are interested in purchasing

Winter in Winchelsea



the original artwork then please contact Fran Clent.

We wish you all a happy festive season and a peaceful New year.



It feels like a period of evolution is approaching as we say goodbye to 2024 and welcome in a fresh and bright 2025. Our Charity has grown and adapted over the last few years, and we intend to build on this progression to increase our relevance within the local community. Our CEO gives an insight into her vision for our Charity over the page. What will

Message from our Chair

With Christmas on the doorstep it's time to remember the success, and hard work, of the events held in the last quarter.

On a very hot day in late August, the annual Charity Golf Day at Rye Golf Club was again a huge success and raised a record amount. As always, we are most grateful for their support.



Richard Taylor accepting one of the first prizes from Rob McNeilly at the Charity Golf Day

We understand those attending the Bridge and Afternoon Tea in late September, hugely encouraged by a supply of

tempting cakes, again contributed a generous amount to our Friends funds whilst admiring the gazebo which was purchased for the patients this year. The combined fundraising for these two events was £8,268!

Our traditional Service of Remembrance was led by Revd Christopher Breeds and Sandra Cooper. It was attended by a large congregation of Friends, staff and over half of our patients who all gathered in the Hospital's reception area to pay their respects.

Before this year ends, we will again have a stall at the Christmas Fair at St Mary's on 7th December, and another of our very popular quiz nights will be held on 12th December at The Mermaid Inn, Rye.

At the time of going to print, our Charity Art Auction at the Hub is imminent! This has been a new and exciting project, led by Paddy Coulman, involving a host of local artists. We anticipate a very

Near Rye



social event and at least 25% of all sales will benefit the Hospital. Special thanks to Richard Adams who not only helped with the organisation but also found time to produce one of our star lots!

I'm sure you will join me in thanking all of our volunteers and supporters for their hard work and enthusiasm in delivering fundraising activities during the year.

A very Happy Christmas everyone and a happy and healthy 2025.

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:

Saturday 7th December
Christmas Fair at St Mary's, Rye

Thursday 12th December
Quiz Night at The Mermaid Inn

Bringing services closer to home

Message from our CEO

Most of you will be aware that Barry Nealon, Chair of our Board of Trustees for the past 15 years, will retire in December. He has been a great supporter of the Friends and has achieved so much for the Charity. He will be missed by us all. However, Barry will be channelling his enthusiasm into other local projects which will benefit Rye.

In the past several months, my own efforts have been

channelled towards building upon the Charity's growing network of partners and like-minded organisations. It is certainly an exciting time for the Charity and we hope that 2025 will bring further opportunities for us to connect with the local community to offer more support and services where they are really needed.

Next year will also see the Charity launching an updated website and social media platforms as the Hospital and Hub are reunited under the umbrella of our Charity.

We hope to be working collaboratively with local groups to share our reimagined charitable mission. If you would like us to come along to one of your coffee mornings or other group activities then please get in touch at charlotte@ryehospital.org.uk.

Merry Christmas everyone and a very Happy New Year!

Charlotte Kneer
MBE



Hospital News

With winter just around the corner, we are already feeling the challenges of the season. We are very lucky, however, to have such a healthy working relationship with our colleagues at the Irvine Unit in Bexhill. Several of the nursing and housekeeping staff have been 'shared' across the two sites so we can plug any gaps as they occur. As a more permanent measure we have recently recruited Sally Clark as a new Care Support Worker, Reanna Hayward as a new Integrated Support Worker and Gisline Mangenda as a new Staff Nurse. Recruitment remains ongoing and we are currently in the process of advertising for a further two CSWs and one ISW.



Claire Peters helping patients with activities

Our patients have been engaged in a variety of creative

activities during their stay at Rye, all of which have been ably led by our team of Activities Coordinators and dedicated Volunteers.

Barry Williams



For those who are unable to take part, our library trolley has been regularly restocked and taken around the ward each week by Barry Williams, one of our Ward Volunteers.

There will be more music on the ward when Tune in Winchelsea return to perform carols on 10th December. I know that many of the patients really appreciate such an uplifting gesture at what can be a particularly difficult time of the year to be in hospital.

The call systems in both our inpatient and outpatient areas have been significantly upgraded

as part of the Charity's ongoing lifecycle capital works plan. These new systems are a huge improvement and the patients, NHS staff and clinicians are already benefitting.

As this will be my last newsletter until the New Year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the multi-disciplinary team for the hard work and dedication they have shown over the last year. This year has been particularly challenging for the team. However, despite this, patient care and safety has remained at the heart of the care that is provided. I would also like to give a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has given me such a warm welcome since commencing as Matron at the Hospital at Rye.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Nichola Hastings
Matron

