

Press Release

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Friends for 50 years

The RUH League of Hospital Friends is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

On Tuesday 8 May, volunteers and hospital staff will mark 50 loyal years of the League of Hospital Friends with an anniversary party, which follows their Annual General Meeting. They will also be gathering to pay tribute to Tessa Berridge, who has worked tirelessly as secretary, volunteer co-ordinator and chairman of the hospital Friends for 30 years.

During their 50 years of dedicated service, the League of Hospital Friends have offered their valuable time and financial support to the RUH, helping patients and relatives, supporting staff and improving amenities and comforts. They give a friendly helping hand whenever they are needed and their presence is very much valued across the whole hospital.

The services they offer are many and varied. Volunteer Friends assist with patient refreshments on wards and in clinics, act as hospital guides, run a seven-day service in the hospital shop and serve refreshments to patients, visitors and staff in the conservatory coffee shop. The hospital Friends also fundraise by organising events throughout the year, such as the annual fete, jazz evenings, tabletop sales, raffles, coffee mornings and a Christmas fair.

Sister Gill Capon, who will be presenting at the League of Hospital Friends AGM says: "We are tremendously grateful to the Friends for all their hard work and efforts in raising funds which provide vital equipment or improve patient comfort and amenities. Where would we be without them?"

"I'd particularly like to pay tribute to Tessa for her ongoing support and friendship and for her dedication to our hospital - she is an amazing lady. Tessa is modest about her achievements and as she says, it is not just her but all the generous, warm-hearted and tireless volunteers and supporters that we have to thank."

League of Hospital Friends chairman Tessa Berridge says: "All our volunteers and members are dedicated in supporting their local hospital, of which they are justly proud. During the last financial year, the Friends have donated over £400,000 to provide vital amenities needed to benefit patients and relatives

throughout the hospital. In this our 50th anniversary year we have already donated £360,000 for 68 new defibrillators.

“I shall be handing my ‘hat’ over to someone else at our AGM and I feel confident that they will maintain our loyalty and support for the next 50 years!”

Some examples of the donations made by the League of Friends over the recent years include donating £320,000 for monitors in the Intensive Care Unit and Newborn Intensive Care Unit, £40,000 towards furnishings for the new cancer day care facility, £40,000 for 20 new patient controlled analgesia pumps to the acute pain service, £30,000 for a scanner for early diagnosis of bowel cancer and £46,000 for the provision of special trolleys in day surgery. Central monitors for NICU cost £2,875 and £5,000 for special trolleys for gynaecology. They have also provided countless chairs for use in waiting areas and corridors, as well as new wheelchairs.

Ends

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