

The Forever Friends Appeal



Press Release

Date: 01.05.20

Two wheels for our NHS heroes

Thirty brand new bikes arrived today (Friday 1 May) at the Royal United Hospitals Bath as a special gift for our NHS heroes. The bikes were donated by BW Cycling, a Bristol-based company that wanted to help staff get to work during the coronavirus pandemic.

They will make a huge difference to staff who have been struggling to get to work on public transport because of reduced services and social distancing guidelines. The Trust organised a free draw and invited colleagues who would benefit of having a bike and the lucky winners were selected at random.

Andy Wadsworth, Co-owner of BW Cycling said:

“We are a small privately owned bike shop which can’t make ventilators or PPE but we have bikes to make transport easier. When we heard stories of frontline NHS staff working long shifts with some walking for over an hour to get to work and back because of reduced public transport and being unable to get a lift share, we thought we could help.

“We are very fortunate to have strong client relationships with local companies and Creo Medical has been very supportive in helping fund 100 bikes for NHS staff. We’ve donated 50 bikes to RUH staff, the remaining 20 will be delivered next week and donated another 50 to staff at Southmead. It’s been a bit challenging with the logistics and social distancing but we’ve done it, much easier in comparison to what many NHS staff are having to deal with on a daily basis. A big thank you goes to the team at Tour du Velo who have kindly agreed to deliver all the bikes”

As well as donating the bikes, the lucky winners also received a helmet, lights and a bike lock to ensure they can cycle safely.

Ben Ellis, Emergency Department Assistant, was entered into the draw by his colleagues Ashleigh Farmer and Zoe Lockton who work with him in the Emergency Department. When he found out he was a winner, he said: “Winning a bike was a big surprise as I did not know about the offer. I feel very privileged and look forward to being able to ride to work.”

Another winner, Jo Smith, Clinical Dietitian who lives in Southstoke said: “This will certainly help my journey to work - it's either over an hour's walk or try and catch two buses!”

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust would like to thank all businesses for their continued support of our staff and patients during this challenging time. Any businesses looking to make a donation should contact the hospital's charity The Forever Friends Appeal by email: forever.friends@nhs.net before making any deliveries.

Ends

Photo captions:

Ben Ellis was entered into the competition without his knowledge by two of his colleagues in the Emergency Department

Lauren Brain who is an SHO in the Intensive Care Unit was thrilled with her new bike

Jon Jenkins (left) and Phil Moyne (right) from Tour du Velo

For more information contact Rebecca Hedges, Marketing and Communications Officer on 01225 826282 or email: Rebecca.hedges@nhs.net

Notes to Editor:

- The Forever Friends Appeal is the charity for the Royal United Hospitals, Bath.
- In response to the COVID-19 situation The Forever Friends Appeal has launched an urgent Appeal called 'Help your hospital heroes' as our hospital has come under increased pressure at this extraordinary time. The money raised will be used to purchase some of the items needed for care packages for staff (packaged food, toiletries etc.) and as well responding to other urgent requests from wards and departments.
- Any local businesses who would like to donate bulk items for our staff care packages should call our office on 01225 825691 / 825931 and we can update you on the items we most need help with sourcing.

About the Royal United Hospitals Bath

- The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust provides acute treatment and care for a catchment population of around 500,000 people in Bath, and the surrounding towns and villages in North East Somerset and Western Wiltshire. The hospital provides healthcare to the population served by four Clinical Commissioning Groups: Bath & North East Somerset CCG, Wiltshire CCG, Somerset CCG and South Gloucestershire CCG.
- The Trust provides 759 beds and a comprehensive range of acute services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.
- For more information about RUH Bath visit www.ruh.nhs.uk