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Media Release

Drummer reunites with band after 25 years to say thanks for cancer care

A Wiltshire drummer was reunited with his band for their first gig in 25 years, following treatment for prostate cancer at the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust.

Jim Hamersley, 67, from Rowde near Devizes, was diagnosed with high grade prostate cancer in November 2021, after noticing he was needing to urinate more frequently.

Jim had 20 sessions of radiotherapy at the RUH and, wanting to raise money to say thank you to the team caring for him, he knew exactly who to call on – his old band Astral Plane.

He said: “We’d been talking about getting back together for a reunion gig for a while, and this was the perfect reason to do it.

“I’d kept up with my drumming all these years, but we hadn’t played together since 1994.

“It was really special, made even better by the fact we were raising money for a fantastic cause.”

The seven-piece band dusted off their instruments, dug out their popular repertoire of 70s and 80s disco covers, and hit the stage for a series of three comeback gigs.

They raised £1010.70 for hospital charity RUHX, to be spent on improvements in the radiotherapy department.

Jim has now finished radiotherapy treatment, but will continue having regular check-ups.

He added: “The care I had at the RUH was exceptional. I’m so grateful to everyone.

“I would encourage anyone to go and get checked if there’s something they’re worried about.”

Radiotherapy Service Manager Lisa Tolson said: “We’re really grateful to Jim and his friends and family raising money for us, in such a meaningful way.

“It was great to catch up with Jim when he visited to present the cheque, and hear about how the gigs had gone.

“On behalf of the whole team, we wish him all the best on his continued recovery.”

Ends

Notes to Editor:

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.

In 2015 The Royal United Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust acquired the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) NHS Foundation Trust. The RNHRD treats patients from across the country offering services in rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME, cancer related fatigue and fatigue linked to other long term conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

The RUH is changing - we have an exciting programme of redevelopment underway transforming our site and further improving the services we provide. The Trust has opened the purpose-built RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre and is now working towards the new Dyson Cancer Centre. For more details visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit_for_the_future

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk