



SUPPORTING
BRIDGWATER
HOSPITALS
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NEWSLETTER

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SIR ASHLEY FOX MP VISITS THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

On 19th March our MP Sir Ashley Fox visited our monthly fund-raising stall in reception. Sir Ashley has an in-depth knowledge of the League of Friends as his mother was a 'Friend' for many years. We chatted about our fund raising activities, our difficulty in recruiting volunteers as well as what the future may hold for our work in the hospital.

Afterwards, he then visited the ward and Mary Stanley Unit on the upper floor of the hospital.

We are very grateful to him for the time he spent with us and for his support for our efforts



INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY

On International Nurses' Day 2025, we celebrated the incredible skill, dedication and impact of nursing.

Nursing is not a 'calling' or a 'vocation'. It's a highly skilled and safety-critical profession, requiring remarkable dedication, professionalism and expertise.

Nursing staff work in a vast variety of settings – from GP surgeries and hospitals to care homes and prisons. But no matter where they are, the public puts its trusts in nurses in times of need. They turn to nurses not only for care and compassion, but for their knowledge, their training and their skills.

Yet despite its invaluable work, the nursing profession is facing huge challenges. That's why it's more important than ever to recognise the incredible skill, dedication and impact of nursing.

Thank you to everybody who joined us in celebrating Nurses Day and calling for every member of nursing staff to receive the recognition they deserve.

In recognition of our wonderful nursing staff at Bridgwater Community Hospital, the Matron and League of Friends organized a coffee afternoon providing coffee, tea and cakes to every nurse



RECENT FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE

GRANT FOR THE COMMUNITY REHABILITATION SERVICE

In order to provide a cost effective and efficient service for patients, a scheme is being set up to hold rehabilitation classes in a central location in the community where several patients could be seen and helped at the same time instead of staff visiting individual patients in their own homes. This would result in less travel for staff, patients would not have to wait for an appointment and there would be financial savings for the NHS.

Part of the proposal is to hire a room in Wembdon Village Hall for the 6 month period which the NHS could not fund whilst it is evaluating and approving the scheme for future funding.

The League of Friends made an initial offer of £500 to help with these costs.

New Picnic Table for Physio

During a recent tour of the hospital, one of our members noted the poor condition of the outside table where many of the staff from Physio took their lunch.

The League of Friends has now purchased a new table which can be seen here shortly after its installation by a the de-



You can now make a donation to the League of Friends through 'Just Giving' by scanning this QR code with your smart device.

Every penny we raise goes towards improving the lives of patients, staff and visitors to the hospital.



MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

The League of Friends has supported Bridgwater hospitals for the past 70 years.

In recent times we have found it very difficult to recruit new members either as volunteer 'Friends' or as 'Committee Members'. Our numbers are slowly dwindling, and the future of the League is a little precarious. We are just about managing with the few people we do have but need to recruit new members to ensure the future of this worthwhile organisation.

The Committee meets once per month in the hospital to plan fund-raising activities and to consider the allocation of funding to projects and improvements in the hospital.

'Friends' do not normally need to attend committee meetings. They are volunteers who are willing to give some time to helping the League in its activities – there is no other commitment other than time!

If you feel you might be able to give a couple of hours per month to help us in our support of the patients and staff of the hospital then please volunteer and join our ranks.

You can get more information by contacting our Chairperson Carole Taylor on 01278 321078 or by email at carole.cude@gmail.com

RECOGNITION OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE LEAGUE OF FRIENDS AND OUR



At a recent committee meeting, our Vice-Chairman, Kim Dodden was presented with a certificate in recognition of 25 years service to the League of Friends.

Kim, who is well known in Bridgwater for her involvement in so many of the activities which take place in the town was presented with the certificate by our President Judith Allen.