

The FOREVER FRIENDS™ Appeal

GIVING NEW HEART TO THE ROYAL UNITED HOSPITAL



APPEAL NEWS

The Newsletter
of the Royal
United Hospital's
Forever Friends
Appeal - March 2007

Second CT Scanner Ordered

Thanks to everyone's support we've done it!

The Forever Friends Appeal is pleased to announce the campaign for a second CT Scanner is virtually complete thanks to the superb generosity of all our supporters, patients and the general public across the Royal United Hospital's catchment area.

One in five people who live in the RUH catchment area, from the young to the elderly, will use the CT Scanner at some point in their lives. The new Scanner is at the forefront of technology producing 64 'slice' images a second, which means improved and more rapid diagnosis for patients, leading to better care and the saving of more lives.

Tim Hobbs, Head of Fundraising for The Forever Friends Appeal, says: "We want to offer all our supporters our heartfelt thanks for the success of the campaign. It is an exciting moment for the Appeal, and the RUH Board has the ordering and installation process for the new Scanner well underway."



Photos courtesy of Bath Chronicle

Di Presdee, Radiographer from the RUH Radiology department, explains: "We have been looking at four different models of the Scanner and having made our preferred choice, we are now going through the necessary procedures to get the new machine put in as quickly as possible – hopefully by May or June."

Launched in July 2005 at the Jamie Cullum concert on Bath Rec with support from Wessex Water and Lloyds TSB, The Forever Friends campaign for a second vital CT Scanner has gone from strength to strength. In March 2006 the campaign received a major boost from Trowbridge based Virgin Mobile when a £150,000 cheque was presented to scanner patient and fundraiser, Vanessa Kyte, whilst she led an 85 mile walk around the RUH Catchment area. In total, 14 local companies have come on board as Corporate Partners for the CT Scanner Campaign.

The most recent campaign success has been the steady progress of the Radiology Department's 'mini appeal' directed at patients, to help raise £100,000 towards the overall campaign target. A letter from Dr David Glew, Consultant Radiologist, and John Waldron, Medical Director, encouraged patients to help the Radiology Department with their challenge and work together with their family and friends to raise funds towards the new scanner. This was a huge success and, is now complete and has raised an amazing £150,000. It enabled the Appeal to make personal approaches for the last £80,000 to a number of regular supporters who responded magnificently. This helped bring the campaign almost to its final conclusion. Local groups such as Keynsham Lions and the Chippenham Breast Cancer Support Group have also come on board. They have pledged continuing support for the department, together with other organisations such as the Morrision Orpheus Choir who are holding a concert in May (see page 2 for more information).



Dr David Glew says: "We are very excited at the progress made with the CT Scanner campaign and are very grateful to our own patients for contributing to a major part of its success. We are now looking forward to later in the year when the equipment can be installed."

Over the past 18 months many memorable events have raised funds for the CT Scanner campaign have taken place, including a variety of successful music concerts on the Bath Rec. Together with The Forever Friends Appeal's major fundraising day 'Teds Big Day Out' which takes place in October each year, other events such as the Bath Half Marathon, Abseils, Fire Walks and Jail & Bails have all contributed to the success of the campaign.

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Corporate Partners



Chair of B&NES support



Beat your fear



Scanner Success
Pull Out Poster
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The Morriston Orpheus Choir in concert to support Radiology's CT Scanner mini appeal

On Saturday 19th May 2007 the famous Morriston Orpheus Choir, founded in 1935, will be performing live at the United Church in Trowbridge, Wiltshire in aid of the CT Scanner appeal. They will be supported by the Barber's Shop quartet and soprano - Kirsten Offer.

The concert is being arranged by Reg Gay and other committee members of the Trowbridge United Church. Reg received a letter from Radiology asking for help to fundraise for the CT Scanner Campaign. He decided to pledge his support and this concert is set to be a wonderful success, and will be one of the last events for the campaign.



The Morriston Orpheus Choir was founded in 1935, originally it drew its membership from mining and heavy industry in the town of Morriston to the north of Swansea in Wales. They are a 120 strong, four part male choir, who have won many awards and toured in the United Kingdom, Europe, Middle East, North America, Australia, New Zealand and Taiwan. They have entertained many wonderful audiences including Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family. The Choir has an extensive repertoire from Gounod to Gershwin, Elvis to Lloyd Webber, opera, songs from shows as well as the many Welsh traditional songs and hymns.

Tickets for the concert are priced at £10 each and can be obtained from The Appeal Office, Tel 01225 825691 or from Howard Travel, Church Walk, W H Pitt Ltd, Silver Street, Co op post office, College Road all in Trowbridge or phone Reg Gay on 01225 765130.

If you would like to display a poster on our behalf, or require further information, please feel free to contact the Appeal. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy a special evening of entertainment whilst supporting The Forever Friends Appeal.

Two More Companies Acknowledged As Corporate Partners



The continued support of locally based telecommunications company Cramer was acknowledged by the presentation of a plaque to Jon Craton, Senior Vice President. Cramer, who recently became part of the global Amdocs OSS Division, has continuously supported The Forever Friends Appeal since it was set up in 1999. Jon Craton told the Appeal's Chairman, John Cullum, that during this time the employees of Cramer have been

happy to be involved with such a worthwhile local charity. He particularly praised employee Linda Meaden for her work with the Appeal.



Dave Harris, Director of External Affairs at Western Power Distribution also visited the RUH to also receive a plaque to recognise WPD's becoming a Corporate Partner. He was accompanied by Sarah Bullock, Corporate Communications Manager at WPD. They were both shown round the new MRI/CT scanner suite to see for themselves where the new CT Scanner will be housed. Western Power Distribution is a stalwart

supporter of the Appeal and was happy to be a major sponsor of the Brighouse and Rastrick Brass Band concert held at the Forum last year to raise vital funds for the Scanner campaign.

Raise funds for the Appeal whilst you shop online!

If you already shop online did you know that you can also contribute towards The Forever Friends Appeal without paying any extra? easyfundraising.org.uk provide a fundraising service where you can raise funds for us whilst shopping at your leisure. We can benefit up to 15% from every purchase you make from over 300 brand name retailers such as John Lewis, Boden, Lloyds TSB, Woolworths, BT, Toys R Us and Amazon.co.uk to name but a few!

easyfundraising
.org.uk

To support the Appeal register online at www.easyfundraising.org.uk, click any of the retailer links provided then shop as you would normally.

Providing you login each time and use the retailer links provided, then all your transactions can be tracked and we will receive the appropriate donations at no extra cost to you.

We hope you will be able to join us by shopping this way and therefore help support The Forever Friends Appeal.

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Bill Viles was presented with a special award from the Chairman and Chief Executive of the RUH at a presentation on 5th March, in recognition of his voluntary work for the hospital. The Appeal decided to put Bill forward for the award for the support he shows, not only towards fundraising, but also for his time and dedication to the wards of the hospital.



Below is just one example of what Bill has helped achieve.

Xmas raffle Success

Over four weeks in November and December 2006, Bill spent more than 240 hours manning the Raffle stall in the Atrium of the Hospital.

There were well over 90 prizes, including 4 days in Paris and a Chicago Jukebox, so staff, visitors and patients at the hospital eagerly bought tickets to secure their chance of winning an early Christmas gift.

The raffle made an amazing £7000 for the Appeal, which will be used on Victoria and Hamilton wards. Both wards and the Appeal are absolutely delighted with the support shown for the raffle. We would like to say a huge thank you to Bill for dedicating so much time and effort to ensuring the raffle's success, and to everyone who bought tickets.

Photo courtesy of Bath Chronicle

Corsham Company Support



Corsham manufacturer of safety equipment for the electricity supply industry, P & B Weir, chose to support the Forever Friends Appeal CT Scanner campaign. In November they presented the Appeal with a cheque for £1000. The funds were raised by employees of the company undertaking a variety of different fundraising activities ranging from:- cake sales, mad hatter competition, Easter egg raffle, toy bid, sweepstakes for major sporting events, loud shirt/blouse day and a contribution from a runner in the Bath half marathon. *(It sounds a fun place to work!).*

Clare Teal & The Silver Ring Choir



Photo courtesy of Grenvill Jones

Support From The Chairs of B&NES

The past Chairs of Bath & North East Somerset Council have been very supportive of Ted's Big Day Out! – but this year has been extra special. Cllr Loraine Morgan-Brinkhurst, the current Chairman, visited local schools who were taking part in our annual fundraising day.



Loraine is no stranger to the Appeal, having been a Vice President for a number of years, offering valuable assistance including choosing The Forever Friends Appeal as one of her charities to benefit from the Diamond & Tiara Ball which was held at the Assembly rooms on Friday 23rd March 2007.

The Chairman visited St Stephens Primary School at Lansdown in Bath, where the children and teachers paid to dress up for the day. They all joined in for the school assembly and a good time was had by all.

Our grateful thanks to The Chairman, the pupils and the staff for their support.

In December 2006 one of our busy Vice Presidents, Clare Teal, was under the spotlight at the Forum with the Silver Ring choir, giving a delightful performance of some of her own songs mixed with some more traditional and popular classics.

The globetrotting Silver Ring Choir were on top form singing traditional and modern carols giving a festive atmosphere to a very appreciative audience, who were encouraged to join in singing The First Noel.

The mix of carols and jazz made it a memorable evening, with everyone having the 'feel good' factor when leaving The Forum, This was reflected in the generous collection as the audience donated nearly £800 – a big thank you to everyone.

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COME ON AND BEAT YOUR FEAR THIS YEAR

Are you up for a challenge in 2007? Do you want to beat the fear? Then help raise funds for the Appeal by making an exhilarating 10,000 feet freefall parachute jump!

Imagine standing at the edge of an open doorway in an aircraft flying at 10,000 feet – the noise of the engines and the wind ringing in your ears with only the outline of distant fields below.

Now imagine leaning forward out of that doorway and letting go – falling forward into the clouds, diving down through the air as you start freefalling at over 120mph! Then imagine the peace and quiet as the canopy opens, the steering toggles come down either side of you and you begin a tranquil parachute descent from a mile up in the air, steering yourself back down to the centre of the drop zone below. Imagine being able to do this for FREE whilst harnessed to a professional freefall parachute instructor and at the same time being able to help the Appeal! Stop imagining, it's real and it's happening all the time and you can be part of it ...



No experience is necessary and if you raise the minimum amount of sponsorship you will get to jump for free. To find out more simply call 01225 825825, or email: forever.friends@ruh-bath.swest.nhs.uk.

MAY MILES – THE DATE HAS BEEN SET!

After the astounding success of March Miles last year, the 85 mile week long walk all around the RUH catchment area, led by cancer patient Vanessa Kyte, is gearing up to take place in 2007 from 6th to 12th May. To reserve your place on this popular fundraising walk, by signing up to walk for half a day, a whole day or more, contact the events team on 01225 825 825 or email forever.friends@ruh-bath.swest.nhs.uk.

Fire Walkers Feel The Heat For Forever Friends

Over 30 Forever Friends Appeal supporters felt the heat at Bath Racecourse, when they walked their way across 20ft of burning wood embers to raise funds for the RUH. The brave team, which was comprised of people from Bath, West Wiltshire and North East Somerset with an age range of 21 to 82, and included a team of ten who were from The Greyhound Hotel in Midsomer Norton. They took on the challenge to raise funds for the Appeal's CT Scanner Campaign and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). The Fire Walk has raised over £5,000 for the Appeal.



The Fire Walk was a first for the Appeal, and was sponsored by Foresters, the international charitable and financial services organisation. Foresters are very valued supporters of The Forever Friends Appeal and we would like to thank them and Bath Racecourse for making this event possible. We are delighted that so many people from across the region rose to the challenge and would like to thank them all for their bravery,

The weather for the event was truly superb and as well as a fantastic performance from the ever popular Samba Sulis band. There was also fun and games to keep the spectators entertained.

Jazz it up at Ston Easton

Back for the fourth year running, 'Jazz in the Park' at Ston Easton Park Hotel is on Saturday 16th June, and it is set to be a superb night with entertainment from George Melly and Digby Fairweather's Half Dozen, ending in a dazzling firework display! This event will be followed by an afternoon of 'Summer Serenade' on Sunday 17th June, when Wells Cathedral School return to Ston Easton, after astounding the crowds in 2005 with their truly superb musical talents!

VIP and ground tickets will be available for both events – so please call 01225 825 825 for more information.

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Welcome to our newest committee!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our latest group of fundraisers who are based in Saltford. They were prompted to form as a result of the CT Scanner 'mini appeal' which was launched in September 2006, and brought in £150,000 to the Appeal, helping to completed the CT Scanner campaign. Their inaugural meeting was held in mid-November and featured rather delicious home-made cakes and tea! Having allotted themselves tasks, they are now busily engaged in preparations for a 1940s-themed tea party to be held in Saltford on June 30th. If you would like to be involved in the event or have anything you would like to propose, please get in touch with us here at the Appeal and we will be happy to put you in contact with the committee!

WELLS GOES RETRO PLEA!

The Wells committee, with the kind support of the Mayor, Cllr Simon Davies, plan to take the town hall back in time six decades to the 1940s in May 2007. In order to compliment the twenty-five piece swing band, who are generously donating their services for the evening, enthusiasts of the period are anxiously sought to help give the evening a really authentic feel. If you know exactly how hatches were battened during the Blitz and are able to help, please do get in touch with either the Town Hall in Wells or Rachel O'Connor, Community Fundraiser at The Forever Friends Appeal office!