



THE FRIENDS OF HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL NEWSLETTER

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Technology Can Help

Most of us communicate with others, express our opinions and do everyday tasks without even thinking about it. Not everyone is so able. Many of the patients at Holy Cross Hospital are unable to speak and have very restricted movements so cannot write or make gestures to help us communicate with them.

They rely on others for simple tasks such as turning the volume on the television up or down or changing the channel.

Technology can help us to assess the patients' needs and learn more about them.

Environmental control systems (ECS)

ECSs enable less able people to operate domestic appliances and other functions by remote control. For example:

Telephone	Curtains/blinds	Doors & windows	Lights
Television/DVD	Radio and CD	Power sockets	Computers
Page turners	Intercoms	Nurse call	Security alarms

Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC)

The idea behind AAC is to use the person's abilities whatever they are to compensate for their difficulties and make communication as quick, simple and effective as possible when speech alone does not work. A large range of systems is now available which vary in complexity and sophistication.

Both systems are accessed by an input switch, which is operated by any consistent movement, which the patient can control.

Under current arrangements it can take months before the patient has access to equipment, with the potential to make him/her more independent. We are proposing to develop a comprehensive assessment service, which would provide the patients with immediate access to ECS and/or AAC systems so the work of deciding the best one for them can begin without delay.

We have identified a room to be used for assessments and we would like to begin to equip it with a range of ECS and AAC equipment, software and a variety of switches. The resources can be added to in the future, as patients with different needs are admitted and technology develops even further

Carol Fowlie, Director of Clinical Services

Recent Happenings

An Evening of Song and Stories.....

On 24th March the hall at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Haslemere was packed out for an Evening of Song and Stories presented by William Godfree and Martin Muncaster. This talented pair gave us a marvellous performance of humorous and tuneful songs and hilarious stories. William's rendition of Flanders and Swann songs and Martin's tales, told in a broad Sussex accent, had the audience rolling in the aisles. Who can forget the one about the two old soldiers sitting on a bench in Petworth Square.....!

Our thanks to William and Martin for providing such splendid entertainment and raising £1,300 for the Friends.

Walking the South Downs Way.....

Do you remember the beautiful weather which lasted throughout April and continued into the first week of May? It was then that my son, Michael, and I walked the South Downs Way from Eastbourne to Winchester, a distance of 100 miles which we completed in 10 days. Given the wet weather of this summer, we were fortunate indeed to have fine weather. The countryside was beautiful and from the top of the Downs the views over the Weald were extensive and breathtaking. Inevitably there were a few occasions when we felt tired and footsore but then we remembered the many people who had so generously sponsored us. £6,200 was raised for Holy Cross Hospital; more than we had ever hoped for. Thank you!

Gill Kenny

WALKERS Please don't forget our sponsored walk which is taking place on Sunday 7th October at 10.00am prompt. The walk of 10 miles will be from Elstead to Frensham, to Rushmoor with lunch at the Pride of the Valley. We hope that some of you may be able to take part and those unable to do so may be able to sponsor the walkers. Please contact Jamie Sehmer on **01428 681998** (e-mail jamie@sehmer.demon.co.uk for details and to let him know if you are coming (so that we do not leave without you) or if you need a sponsor form / wish to sponsor walkers.

RUNNERS



BOXING DAY FUN RUN 2007

10am registration for 11am start
from the
'Crown and Cushion', Weyhill
Register ahead (very advisable)
on
www.boxingdayrun.com

Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Holy Cross Hospital

The AGM was held on 25th April 2007. The Chairman, Michael Fellingham, reported on the many events organised by the Friends during the previous year which had raised over £20,000. He thanked his wife Jan and Jamie Sehmer for their work as Secretary and Treasurer and a special thanks to Gill Kenny for producing the Newsletter over the last eight years.

On behalf of the Hospital, Christopher Hinton, thanked the Friends for their support, both in fund raising and voluntary help. He suggested that proposed technology for speech therapy was an area on which some of the funds raised by the Friends could be used in the near future.

The meeting concluded with a fascinating presentation on Alternative Communication which included a demonstration of various items of hi-tech equipment designed to help the severely disabled to communicate.

You can read the full Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on the Hospital website at www.holycross.org.uk/news.html

Accommodation for Relatives

The refurbishment of a room in Shottermill Hall to provide accommodation for relatives visiting patients at the Hospital is complete and the room is ready for use. The Friends are pleased to have been able to assist with the funding for soft furnishings for the project.

Hydrotherapy Pool

After many months of planning and negotiation the builders arrived on 28th August to set up their compound which has resulted in the loss of the parking spaces at the front of the hospital. The main contract work starts this month and is due to be completed by July 2008.

Dates for your Diary



Sponsored Walk - Sunday 7 October 2007
Worldham Choir Concert - Sat. 24 November 2007
Boxing Day Fun Run - 26th December 2007
Occam Singers - Saturday 16 February 2008

New Members

Do you know someone who would like to join the Friends? If so, please contact Charles Marriott on 01428 643311 or visit the Hospital website www.holycross.org.uk/support.html for an application form.