

Friends
At the heart of RJA



LET'S BE FRIENDS

Spring 2024 Newsletter



Featured:

Coffee Shop Updates
Careers Fair Success
Where's Percy Murals
Cubs' Gardening For Badge
Currency Collection Tubs
And More!

Recognition And Appreciation For Volunteers At Celebration Dinner

League of Friends Hosts Heartwarming Celebration Dinner

We kicked off the year by taking some time to pause, reflect and recognise those that selflessly dedicate their time and energy to making a positive impact at The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt (RJA).

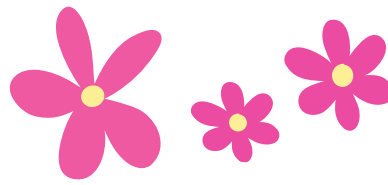
Here at the League of Friends we are so lucky to have such a fantastic team of volunteers that go above and beyond every day, so a celebration dinner in honour of their efforts was held on site in Denbigh's restaurant.

The League of Friends staff team planned the evening from start to finish, which included a complimentary delicious 3 course meal prepared by RJA's Head of Catering, Dan Hoggett. The staff team and executive committee took on the role of waitresses for the evening and wore the volunteer's uniform whilst helping to ensure everyone one in attendance was looked after, had a full glass and was enjoying themselves.

Volunteers from all areas of the hospital came together, meaning many of them could meet and mingle with others that they may have not ever seen before due to different shift patterns. The evening highlighted how much our volunteer team does for the hospital and was a lovely way to show appreciation for their hard work throughout the year.

With such positive comments and feedback both during the evening and after, the event was deemed a huge success and all that attended felt truly 'special' and 'appreciated'. The event is hoped to become an annual tradition to be held during January blues after the busy year previously.

Friends Updates



Embracing Sustainability Changes With Personalised Travel Cups

Volunteers across the hospital are now proudly sipping their beverages from personalised travel cups in support of the hospital's commitment to champion the most current eco-friendly practices.

At the end of 2023 the hospital provided all active staff members with a branded travel cup that can be used while on site. Proving popular, the League of Friends made arrangements for all volunteers to receive a branded cup, ahead of the cup scheme being introduced to the coffee shops on site.

The new travel cups, in a cheerful bright pink, also have a personalised touch, with names on each cup, fostering a sense of identity and recognition; helping us reinforce to each volunteer that they are a vital part of the hospital through their contributions.

By involving volunteers in this initiative, the Friends are actively supporting the trust in promoting environmental responsibility and a shared commitment to building a healthier, more sustainable future for all.



Percy's Pals Enhance Support For Sheldon Ward At RJAH

Volunteers have recently been given the opportunity to become part of a new role, Percy's Pals, which aims to provide non-clinical support and companionship to patients on Sheldon Ward.

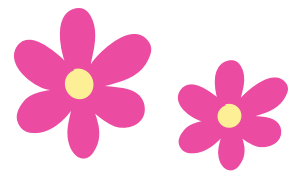
The initiative aims to encourage the intake of fluids and uplift spirits to help enhance the hospital experience for patients facing extended stays, particularly those without visitors.

Stans Superstore in St Martins generously contributed £200 to support this project and provided the initial supply of teabags for Percy's Pals to use on the ward when encouraging fluid intake. With the funding provided by Stans, the League of Friends, with help from RJAH's Medical Illustrations team, have designed a distinctive pin badge for Percy's Pals to wear proudly upon completing their training and commencing their role.

For more information, contact the Friends team at **01691 404401** or email **Melanie.Bygrave@nhs.net**.



Updates Continued...



Future Friends Shine At Moreton Hall Careers Fair

The Friends team were a hit at popular Moreton Hall's Careers Fair, attracting over 60 students for potential voluntary roles.

The vibrant and interactive stall featured some fun games while offering some unique freebies to all that signed up. The freebies included a Future Friends rucksack, a cosy Future Friends hoodie, an adorable build-a-bear teddy, notepads, pens, and some snacks.

The team's approachable setup made the event enjoyable and gathered genuine connections while demonstrating the positive impact students can make when taking up voluntary opportunities at RJAH.



A Brewing Success As Coffee Shop Takings Soar

The Friends coffee shop has recently reported its highest takings ever, surpassing even pre-COVID records! This remarkable achievement stands as a testament to the dedication and hard work of the volunteers who support our coffee shops.

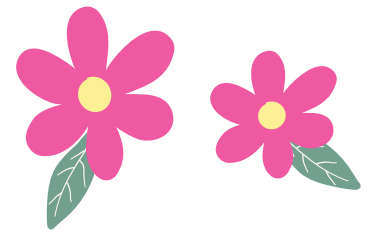
At the forefront of this success is Julia Morgan, our dedicated volunteer coordinator, who has been working tirelessly to elevate the coffee shops to new heights. Collaborating closely with the catering team, Julia has played a pivotal role in ensuring that our establishments meet the same high standards set by the award-winning restaurant and catering team at RJAH.

One of the key strategies implemented by Julia has involved analysing best-selling items to help reduce waste. This has not only helped in reducing costs but has significantly lowered any risk of allergy-related incidents, showing our commitment to customer safety and satisfaction.

A message from Julia: "The success of the coffee shop is a result of the dedication and sincere care from the amazing team of volunteers and staff, and the consistent support of Shirley Oakley and the Catering team. We all share the same passion in creating a Coffee Shop that produces an excellent customer service and is a place that staff, patients and their loved ones can come to for scrumptious treats and to take time to chat and relax. I'm very proud of what we are achieving"



Springing Into Action!



Cubs Bloom In Restoring The Montgomery Unit Garden

A heartfelt appreciation goes out to the 1st Gobowen Cubs for their recent visit to RJA, where they dedicated their efforts to restore the Montgomery Unit Garden as part of their 'Community Impact Badge' initiative.

A group of fifteen enthusiastic cubs engaged in digging and weeding activities in the garden, and plan to return in the coming months to plant perennials and hang baskets.

The League of Friends RJA were more than happy to provide the cubs with hot chocolates during their well deserved half time break!



Transforming The Hospital Corridor With Art And Comfort

A new project is underway at the hospital, adding colourful murals and seating areas to transform the famous long corridor.

The latest installation, situated outside the Children's Outpatients and Alice Ward, has a vibrant mustard yellow bench and two beautiful pieces of artwork designed by RJA's medical illustrations team.

The pieces show a charming woodland scene full of small creatures, including a hidden Percy peacock for children to discover.



Whitchurch Branch Hosts Spectacular Spring Fashion Show!

In a display of style and community spirit, the Whitchurch Branch hosted a Spring fashion show at The Chapel Field Conference Suite in late February.

With the event drawing in an impressive crowd of over 110 attendees, it was a fantastic evening with a really enthusiastic crowd of supporters.

Whitchurch teamed up with sustainable fashion partners Moo & Boom, as well as JB & Boom clothing which attendees then had the opportunity to explore up close on their fashion stalls after the show.



Currency Collection



Transforming Spare Change With Cash4Coins Collab!

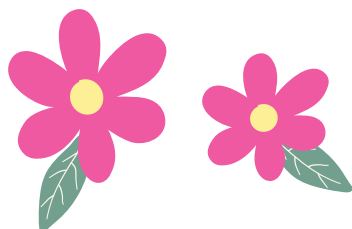
The League of Friends has teamed up with Cash4Coins, a company that specialises in converting old and foreign currency into British Sterling. This collaboration brings a unique opportunity for individuals to contribute to the League of Friends by donating old tender or foreign currency.

The currency collection tubs provide an alternative way for the public to support the charity through the donation of foreign or abolished currency. This can include any loose change from trips abroad or currency that is no longer accepted as legal tender, such as paper notes or old £1 coins.

The first large collection tub has been unveiled and has started to collect donations at the main entrance of The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital (RJAH). Conveniently situated at the League of Friends shop, next to the Post Office entrance.

To expand further and help attract more donations, all League of Friends branches will be given two collection tubs. These will be placed within their catchment areas across Shropshire and parts of Wales, in local businesses, community spaces, and schools. Detailed information about their whereabouts will be on The League of Friends website in the coming weeks, and will feature an interactive map, showing all the locations available.

By turning what might be considered insignificant spare change into a valuable resource, this initiative supports the League of Friends who fund new technology and medical equipment, to ensure that the hospital can access resources it might otherwise struggle to obtain, and ultimately improve patient, visitor, and staff experience.



Volunteer Updates

New Volunteer Fleecees Now Available for Purchase!

We're excited to announce the availability of our new volunteer fleecees for purchase! Priced at £15 each, these fleecees are not only super cosy but also come in various sizes ranging from S to 2XL.

If you're interested in getting one, please inform a team member. You can make your purchase with cash at the main office (location 20) or the charity hub, located opposite the League of Friends shop.

Available in our fabulous pink, or a burgundy option for Veteran Service volunteers.



Donate Your Unwanted Presents to Make a Difference

Consider making a positive impact with your extra or unwanted gifts and items by donating them to the League of Friends charity.

We know all too well the feeling of receiving the same bath set from 3 people, being given a book you've already read, toys the kids already have or a pair of socks in a material you just don't like.

But instead of hiding unwanted gifts in your loft or throwing them away, you can re-gift them and help make a difference with your unwanted items.

To get involved simply bring your items in and leave them in the pink box at the main entrance help desk or leave them with a member of our friends team

Your generosity will play a crucial role in helping us make a positive impact!



If you or someone you know would like to become part of our Friends volunteering family, please don't hesitate to contact us. We'd love to hear from you!



Email: **Melanie.Bygrave@nhs.net** OR **Julia.Morgan7@nhs.net**



Phone: **01691 404527**



Website: **<https://www.friendsrjah.org.uk/volunteer/>**



Upcoming Events!

SAT & SUN
8 - 9
JUNE

Cliffhanger Abseil

Experience the heart pounding rush of a 150 foot high abseil here at RJAH!

RJAH Hospital, SY10 7AG

SAT
15
JUNE

Summer Coffee Morning

With the kind permission of Lady Kenyon, join us between 10:30am - 12:30pm.

Gredington Hall, Hanmer, SY13 3DQ

MON
26
AUGUST

The Mere Mile

*Celebrating it's 5th year running!
Grab your goggles and take the plunge.*

Ellesmere Waterfront, SY12 0PA

WED
23
OCTOBER

Chocolate Tasting

A delicious evening with the chocolate sorcery of Nantwich.

Tilstock Village Hall,

WED
27
NOVEMBER

Wreath Making Classes

*Afternoon Session - 2pm
Evening Session - 7pm*

Tilstock Village Hall,

FRI
6
DECEMBER

Christmas Bazaar

Explore unique crafts, delicious treats, live music, Santa's Grotto and more!

RJAH Hospital, SY10 7AG

How you can help...

Make a donation!

From providing toothbrushes to funding an endoscopic surgical kit, we are at the heart of RJA H as a good friend should be. Together, our staff, volunteers and trustees do all they can to support, enhance and improve the environment, facilities and care delivered.

Your support helps us to continue to take care of the well-being of patients and staff. Every donation, large or small, will make a difference.

Visit our JustGiving page to make a donation:
www.justgiving.com/robertjones-agneshunt/donate

Donations may also be made via BACS, cheque or over the phone - call 01691 404401 for further details.



Can you fundraise for us?

Can you help support the work we do? Whether it's raising £10 or £10,000, every bit helps. There's no limit to the imaginative ways in which you can help us raise money, especially in the current climate.

Your fundraising activity can be anything from hosting a quiz, to completing a sponsored 'Couch to 5k'.

If you would like to fundraise for us please do get in touch, we would love to hear your ideas.

Email us on rjah.communityfundraising@nhs.net



Contact us

Email:

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