



Spring 2025

LET'S Friends At the heart of RJA BE FRIENDS

KING SUPPORTS VOLUNTEERING AT RJA

We proudly hosted the launch of 'Friends Voices' at the beginning of January - a national scheme which highlights the dedication and compassion of volunteers who support healthcare services.

Friends Voices was developed by Attend, and a special event took place to bring together staff, volunteers and special guests to honour the contributions of volunteers through shared experiences and storytelling.

Special guests included His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire Mrs Anna Turner JP and High Sheriff of Shropshire Mr Brian Welte JP, who presented awards recognising over 20 outstanding volunteers.

David Wood OBE, CEO of Attend, led live interviews and praised the Friends at RJA as a "shining star" in UK volunteering. Charity Director Victoria Sugden thanked Attend for their support, calling the project a moving tribute to past and present volunteers and an inspiration for the future.



FEATURED

- Friendly news
- Join our team
- Volunteer updates
- Supporting RJA
- How you can help





POP UP SHOP PROVES A HUGE SUCCESS

We're so pleased that our first pop up charity shop, held in the main entrance of RJAH, raised an amazing £1,963.81.

A big thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to co-ordinate donation drop offs and man the shop.

We are pleased to confirm that the pop up shop will return for two weeks over the summer. The date for your diary - Monday 2nd June until Friday 13th June.

FRIENDLY NEWS...



PATH OF POSITIVITY TRANSFORMED WITH NEW SCULPTURE

The Path of Positivity at RJAH has seen the addition of a new artwork, thanks to local studio Designs in Mind - a not-for-profit design studio that supports over 100 adults in Shropshire to improve their mental health, through involvement in ambitious art and design projects.

Victoria Sugden, Charity Director at RJAH, said: "We are delighted to collaborate with Designs in Mind on this wonderful project. The Path of Positivity has been created to promote mental and emotional wellbeing, and this sculpture beautifully encapsulates that purpose."



CHARITY DIRECTOR STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY TIES

We are delighted to share that our Charity Director, Victoria Sugden, has become the newest member of The Rotary Club of Whitchurch, Shropshire.

Victoria's connection to the Rotary Club holds special meaning, as her late father, Richard Persson, was a dedicated Rotarian, a past president, and a recipient of the esteemed Paul Harris Fellowship. His contributions to the club were significant, and he remains fondly remembered.

We are incredibly proud of Victoria and know she will bring her enthusiasm and expertise to Whitchurch Rotary!



UPCOMING EVENTS

**4TH
APRIL**

**AUCTION OF
PROMISES**

**7pm at Whitchurch Rugby Club
Free Entry**

Supporting Whitchurch Branch - enjoy a welcome glass of prosecco and opportunity to bid on a variety of amazing gifts and experiences.

**10TH
APRIL**

**THE DANCE
OF LIFE**

**6pm until 8pm at Ellesmere College
£20 per ticket - grab them here**

A celebration of the relocation of 'The Dance of Life' - a British mural from the twentieth century. Performances of Aggie by Alison Utting and by the Orthopaedic Male Voice Choir.

JOIN OUR TEAM...

We're on the lookout for two amazing new Friends to join our team! Check out the details below for closing dates and how to apply.

WANTED! GARDENS VOLUNTEER LEAD



Friends
At the heart of RJAH

The League of Friends is seeking a Gardens Volunteer Lead - A unique opportunity to coordinate and support a small team of garden volunteers and oversee the upkeep and development of our garden spaces at The Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

- ✿ Someone with gardening experience (professional or personal)
- ✿ A natural leader who enjoys working with volunteers
- ✿ An organised, proactive, and creative individual
- ✿ A commitment to part time, flexible hours (to be discussed)

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Please email your CV and cover letter to The League of Friends Charity Director, **V.Sugden@nhs.net** by 17th March 2025



WANTED! RETAIL SALES ASSISTANT



Friends
At the heart of RJAH

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual with excellent communication skills and a passion for great customer service to join The League of Friends RJAH retail shop and post office team.

ROLE OVERVIEW:

- 🛍 Provide a friendly and engaging customer service
- 🛍 Ensure our shop remains well stocked and tidy
- 🛍 Operate the till and handle both cash and card transactions
- 🛍 Assist with the Post Office counter (full training provided)

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Please email your CV and cover letter to The League of Friends Charity Director, **V.Sugden@nhs.net** by 19th March 2025





FUTURE FRIENDS SHOWCASED AT CAREERS FAIR

We recently had the pleasure of attending Moreton Hall's annual Careers Fair - a leading provider of post Sixth Form advice for students at the school and beyond.

Pupils were provided with an opportunity to explore how to start their career journey and to realise their potential.

[Read more about our Future Friends scheme here!](#)

Congratulations to Jane Nelson, Kathryn Milgate, Barbara Baker, Emily Patterson and Sally Franks on passing their Level 2 Food Hygiene Training and congratulations to Jayne Vaughan on passing Level 3!



VOLUNTEER UPDATES...

VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATED AT HIGH TEA EVENT

The High Sheriff, Brian Welty held a special community event on Friday 14th February - The High Sheriffs' High Tea, which took place at Telford Central Fire Station.

The event brought together many of the people that Brian had met during his shrieval year. It was a wonderful way to celebrate and thank individuals, volunteers and organisations for their exceptional work.

Congratulations to Phoebe Morgan who was presented with a High Sheriff's Award for her voluntary contributions to the League of Friends - we're so pleased for her!



ENHANCEMENTS TO SUPPORT MCSI STAFF & PATIENTS UNDERWAY

We were pleased to support the Midland Centre for Spinal Injuries (MCSI) at RJAHS by funding the renovation of their staff room and psychology room.

Previous facilities were not fit for purpose - the renovations will provide staff with a well-equipped and inviting space to take a break from ward pressures, while the new psychology room will offer a dedicated, safe, and calming environment where patients can openly discuss sensitive and challenging topics.

It's great to see how these works are coming along and we can't wait to see the finished results



SUPPORTING RJAHS...

BRINGING MAGIC TO YOUNG PATIENTS AT RJAHS

Another year of smiles for RJAHS's paediatric patients, as we funded 12 visits from Pod Children's Charity and Magician David Oakley.

Pod Children's Charity brings magic, fun and laughter into the lives of many thousands of sick children in hospitals and hospices across the UK.

Feedback has been hugely positive, and reminds us how important these added extras are to our patients.

One parent said: "My teenager is in hospital long-term recovering from a spinal cord injury. This is a very difficult time physically and emotionally, so today's visit from David Oakley has brought a big smile to his face through the fun of magic."

Another shared: "David the Magician was wonderful. He came to entertain my daughter in hospital, he did some magic tricks then taught her how to make balloon dogs. It was lovely to see her distracted and having fun - thank you Pod."



Crucial wheelchair funded by Friends for cancer patients at RJAH

Patients at The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital who are affected by paralysis due to spinal tumours will benefit from a vital new wheelchair - proudly funded by us

The wheelchair will provide much-needed mobility for patients who are newly diagnosed with cancer and have been paralysed as a result of their condition.

Without this equipment, patients are often confined to their beds for extended periods while waiting for wheelchair deliveries – this waiting time can significantly impact both physical rehabilitation and emotional wellbeing.

The addition of this wheelchair will help enhance patients' mobility, supporting their physical recovery and improving their overall hospital experience during a critical period of care.

Fenella Heard, Clinical Nurse Specialist for Spinal Tumours, said: "This wheelchair has been transformative for my patients and I'm incredibly grateful to the League of Friends for funding it.

"The patients I care for often face the dual blow of a new cancer diagnosis and a life-changing disability. Before, wheelchair patients were often bed or chair bound with no way of mobilising anywhere – spending long days staring at four walls is incredibly distressing, particularly when dealing with a new, often palliative, diagnosis.

"This wheelchair allows patients the freedom to explore life beyond their room – enjoying fresh air, social interaction and 'a snippet of normal life' during a dark and difficult time."

Victoria Sugden, Charity Director, said: "We're delighted to fund equipment that has such a profound impact on patients' lives. This wheelchair offers not just mobility but also a sense of freedom and dignity, helping to improve the overall experience for patients during a very difficult time."



HOW YOU CAN HELP...

MAKE A DONATION

From providing toothbrushes to funding an endoscopic surgical kit, we are at the heart of RJAH 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.



JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER FAMILY

Here at RJAH we have a wonderful volunteer family, with membership standing at 200.. Our amazing team support and assist staff in providing a more personal and friendly service to patients, relatives and carers.

There's a broad array of roles available, from helping out in our retail outlets to offering a compassionate ear to patients - get in touch today!

CONTACT THE TEAM

Victoria Sugden (Charity Director)
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Melanie Bygrave (Office Manager and Assistant to the Charity Director)
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Julia Morgan (Charity Manager)
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INSTAGRAM



TWITTER



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