



Friends
At the heart of RJAH

LET'S BE FRIENDS

SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATED AT SPECIAL EVENING OF THANKS

We are delighted to have celebrated our volunteers at an evening of thanks, which took place on Thursday 29 January.

The event was organised to recognise and thank volunteers for the time, commitment and dedication they give throughout the year in support of patients, visitors and staff at RJAH.

Volunteers play a vital role across the hospital, from wonderful Ward Friends to Helpdesk heroes, they work to enhance the patient experience in countless ways.

The event was also attended by the charity's Patron, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire, Mrs Anna Turner, who joined volunteers and staff to recognise and celebrate their outstanding contribution to the hospital.

Anna said: "I was so pleased to have the opportunity to meet, thank and talk to some of the volunteers who are without shadow of doubt the nicest, friendliest bunch of people you could ever meet, they just love doing things to make other people's lives better".

The charity's President, Lady Sally Kenyon, and Mr Brian Welti, Friends Trustee and Deputy Lieutenant, were also present, adding their support and thanks to those who give so generously of their time.

The evening brought volunteers together for a relaxed sit-down meal, with light entertainment including music, a table quiz and a raffle.

It provided an opportunity for volunteers to mingle, share stories and enjoy each other's company in a social setting away from their usual roles.

Victoria Sugden, Friends CEO, said: "Our volunteers give so much of their time and energy to support the hospital, and it was wonderful to be able to bring everyone together to say thank you.

"The evening was about recognising how valued they are and celebrating the difference they make, while giving them the chance to relax and enjoy themselves together."



Featured...

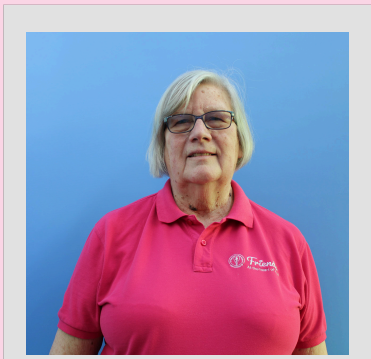
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MEET OUR MENTORS...



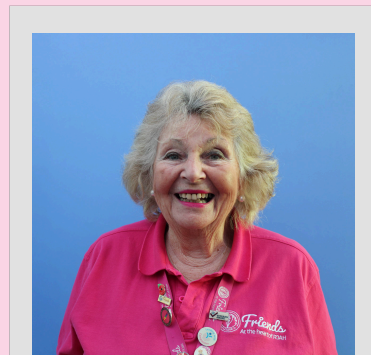
Pat - Ward Friend



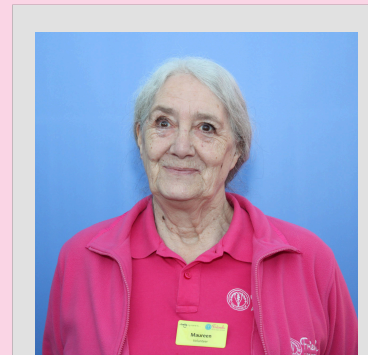
Gill - Helpdesk



Melvin - Ward/Cafe



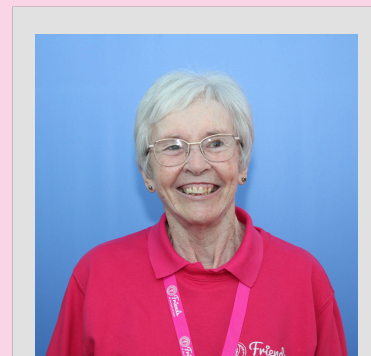
Beryl - Shop /Helpdesk



Maureen - Helpdesk

Starting something new can feel daunting, even when it's something exciting. That's why we've introduced a Volunteer Mentor Scheme.

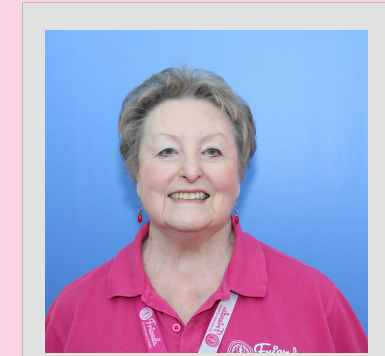
Our Volunteer Mentors will act as a welcoming point of contact for new or unsure volunteers – someone they can chat to, ask questions, or simply be reassured by.



Helen - Helpdesk



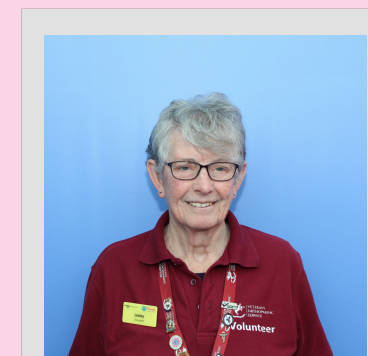
Debby - Helpdesk



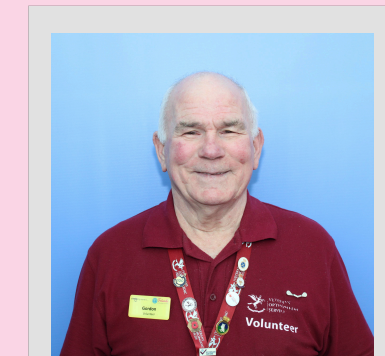
Jenny - Retail



Julie - Pre-op



Lesley - Veterans'



Gordon - Veterans'

EASTER TREATS DELIVERED TO ALICE WARD

The Easter bunny has visited the paediatric ward at RJAH ahead of the Easter bank holiday weekend.

A huge thanks to Texaco Garage and Spar Lewis of Llandrinio for kindly donating Easter eggs for the children who will be hospital over the weekend.



Our coffee shops contribute to a five star food hygiene rating at RJAH!



FRIENDLY NEWS...

SPECIALIST TRAINING DELIVERED FOR VOLUNTEERS

We were delighted to work in partnership with Arthritis UK - the UK's leading charity dedicated to improving the lives of people affected by arthritis through research, information and campaigning.

They kindly hosted an exclusive training session for our volunteers, focusing on helping to understand and manage arthritis in daily life.

This training aimed to give our volunteers greater confidence, knowledge and practical insight, enabling them to better support patients at RJAH.





SPELLBINDING VISITS FOR PAEDIATRIC PATIENTS

January saw the first visit of the year from POD Children's Charity and Magician David Oakley – we are delighted to continue to fund these spellbinding visits to Alice Ward.

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

RJAH Education Manager, Helen, said: "David's monthly visits to the ward continue to delight patients and their families. He is brilliant at using his magical performances and balloon crafting skills as a distraction technique when a child is experiencing pain or feeling particularly sad and is always very sensitive to each patient's individual needs. David provides a huge amount of joy and laughter to all those he meets and we look forward to many more visits on Alice Ward."

SUPPORTING RJAH...

CHARITABLE FUNDING IMPROVES CARE FOR CT PATIENTS

A new anaesthetic trolley is in place and making a difference to patients and staff, thanks to Friends funding.

Corina Stoean, Senior Anaesthetic Practitioner Nurse, said: "We are incredibly grateful to the League of Friends for their generosity in funding this this anaesthetic trolley for remote anaesthesia.

"Thanks to this support we are able to provide safer, better and more compassionate care for patients with cancer who come to us for CT-guided biopsies. For many, this is a frightening and emotional time, and having the right equipment makes a real difference to their comfort, dignity and safety."



MCSI renovations supported by Friends

We are delighted to have supported staff and patients on the Midland Centre for Spinal Injuries with the recent refurbishment of their staff and psychology rooms.

MCSI is a specialist unit providing expert care and rehabilitation for people with spinal cord injuries. With more than 100 staff working across nursing, therapy, medical, psychology and resettlement services, the ward operates around the clock to support patients through some of the most challenging moments of their lives.

The refurbishment project focused on improving two vital spaces within the unit – the staff room and the psychology room. Staff on the MCSI ward work long demanding 12 hour shifts, providing not only physical care but also emotional support to patients adjusting to life changing injuries.

Until now, the existing staff room was too small to comfortably accommodate the number of staff needing rest space during breaks. At the same time, the psychology room is where patients and families take part in deeply sensitive and often emotional conversations.

The completed project involved repurposing and refreshing both rooms to better meet these needs.

The larger former psychology room has been transformed into a spacious, comfortable staff room, giving staff a protected place to rest and recharge. To further enhance the environment, a stunning wall mural has been installed.

The former staff room has been redesigned as a dedicated psychology space, with improvements to accessibility to ensure it can accommodate all wheelchair users and beds safely and comfortably.

The project was made possible thanks to a generous financial contribution of £35,563 from the hospital's League of Friends

Hannah Cheesman, MCSI Matron, said: "These spaces play a crucial role in the day to day life of our ward.



"Having environments that truly support our staff and patients makes a real difference – we are incredibly grateful to the League of Friends for helping us make this happen."

Victoria Sugden, League of Friends CEO, said: "We are proud to have supported this project, which has created two welcoming, thoughtfully designed spaces for both staff and patients on MCSI.

"The wellbeing of staff and the emotional support of patients are so closely linked, and this refurbishment recognises the importance of both. Supporting improvements like this is at the heart of what the League of Friends exists to do."

CASH4COINS GAINS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Thank you to our friends at Texaco Garage and Spar Lewis of Llandrinio for filling a Cash4Coins collection tub to the brim!

Do you know a business, school or social club that could get help to raise money from unwanted foreign coins and notes? Let us know!

Alternatively, come down to RJAH and donate your unwanted currency to us at the main entrance - every penny adds up and helps make a huge difference.



FANTASTIC FUNDRAISING...



BERRIEW FC FUNDRAISES FOR THEIR FRIENDS

A popular annual Ladies Lunch hosted by Berriew Football Club has raised an impressive £3,000 for the benefit of our charity. The sell out event took place on 15 November 2025 and featured a Country & Western theme. Guests enjoyed a two course lunch, a raffle and promise auction, followed by Boncys Bingo and a disco – making for a lively and memorable afternoon.

Each year, Berriew Football Club's Ladies Lunch raises funds for the club alongside a chosen charity, usually one that has supported someone locally. This year, the decision was made to support the League of Friends at RJAH after many members of the committee, players, family and friends had personally experienced care at the hospital.

RJAH VOLUNTEER TAKES ON CHESTER CHALLENGE

Meet Gill, a fantastic volunteer at RJAH.. This year, Gill is taking on an incredible challenge - the Chester Triple, to raise funds for RJAH Charity.

Having benefited from the care and kindness at RJAH, Gill says it's her way of giving something back. Please consider sponsoring Gill and cheering her on as she runs for our hospital and patients. [Donate here - every penny counts.](#)



CHARITY CORNER...



RJAH PARTNERS WITH ACCESSABLE TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL

RJAH have partnered with AccessAble, the UK's leading provider of detailed accessibility information, to launch comprehensive Detailed Access Guides for its wards, services and departments - this has been funded by RJAH Charity.

The new guides provide clear, factual and easy-to-use information to help patients, visitors and staff plan their visit to the Oswestry-based hospital with confidence, reducing anxiety and supporting greater independence. Each guide has been created by trained AccessAble surveyors who visit the site in person. They capture detailed information on entrances, lifts, toilets, parking, lighting, signage, assistive listening systems and much more. [Check it out here!](#)

HOW WE WORK...

OUR MISSION

All the money raised by The League of Friends goes to supporting the front-line staff, patients and their relatives at The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

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.

GET IN TOUCH

Email: rjah.leagueoffriends@nhs.net

Tel: Central Office - 01691 404401

Charity Hub - 01691 4044588

Post Office - 01691 404430

For updates visit:



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