Association of Friends of the
Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD)

Registered Charity No: 201666

Taken from a painting by the late Brian Wilmot, a long-serving member of the Friends’ Committee

Fund-Raising Events

Sale of Friends’ Christmas Cards – Now Available
On sale in the hospital –
- Outpatients Department
- Via Kate Lane, Fund-raising and Communications Officer, RNHRD

and at the Friends’ Christmas events (please see below).

This year the Friends are selling 3 designs –

Painting of the Hospital and of Dr Oliver:
Individual cards £0.50; 5 for £2.00

Painting of the Hospital by the late Brian Wilmot, a long-serving member of the Friends’ Committee:
5 for £3.00; 10 for £5.00

Christmas Coffee Morning & Cake Sale – Thurs 4 December
Thursday 4 December, 10.30am to 12.30pm in the hospital’s Lecture Hall, RNHRD, Upper Borough Walls, Bath BA1 1RL.

Everyone welcome – please do join the Friends for coffee and home-made cakes, cupcakes, mince pies and biscuits.

Christmas cards and the book by Dr Roger Rolls: ‘Diseased, Douched and Doctored’, together with some small gift items, will also be available to purchase, to raise further funds for the Friends.
Festive Concert at the Pump Room – Sunday 14 December
The Bath Recital Artists’ Trust (reg. charity 1051410) are holding a concert in the Pump Room, Bath on Sunday 14 December at 8.00pm, with refreshments available from 7.15pm.

The ticket price includes a donation to the Association of Friends of the RNHRD, a glass of wine before the concert and coffee and fudge in the interval. There will also be a presentation to Howard Routledge, long-serving member of the Friends and a former Chairman, who recently retired from the Committee.

The concert features ‘Chapter 5’, a vibrant young acapella quintet who have been described as ‘beautiful, witty & hilarious’ and ‘a beautifully blended sound and so much fun’.

Tickets are £18.50 and only available by post from:

The Secretary
Association of Friends of the RNHRD
32 Ringwood Road, BATH BA2 3JL

Please enclose your cheque made payable to ‘Friends of the RNHRD’ and a stamped addressed envelope to receive your tickets.

Enquiries to the Secretary: susan.a.bright@btinternet.com

Special Membership/Book Offer – Still Available for a Limited Time
First year’s membership of the Association of Friends plus a copy of Dr Rolls’ book for just £26.00 (would usually cost up to £33.00). For a leaflet giving further details about the work of the Friends and membership options please contact the Secretary (details above, or email susan.a.bright@btinternet.com).

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About the Friends

Who are the Friends
The Association of Friends of the RNHRD is a voluntary organisation and registered charity independent of the NHS. We have a large membership from right across the country, and many members are former patients and their families.

We have an active Management Committee who manage the funds and co-ordinate the fund-raising events. A number of the Committee also work as volunteers in the Hospital, for example, running the mobile library, visiting long-stay patients and liaising with staff.

The Friends’ original aims were adopted in 1948, and the organisation became a registered charity (no. 201666) in 1963. We are also a member of the National Association of Hospital Friends (now known as Attend). Our President is the Lord Patten of Barnes CH and our Patron the Lord Cope of Berkeley PC.
What are our aims

- To provide amenities and comforts for patients and relatives which are not provided by the NHS;

- To support the Hospital in the funding of special projects not able to be funded from other sources; and

- To increase people’s awareness of the work of the Hospital and attract volunteers

Our main support for the RNHRD is to provide funding for projects not able to be funded from other sources. We raise funds through membership subscriptions, donations, bequests and events. In recent years our fund-raising events have included a shared Auction of Promises with the children’s leukaemia charity, CLIC, a local choir concert at Prior Park, summer strawberry tea party with live music, annual Christmas Fayre, a talk by Lord Patten about his years in Bath, Hong Kong and the USA, an evening of songs by Encore, and the ongoing sale of goods and Christmas cards.

We are also very grateful to those who have raised money on our behalf – for example, those who ran in the recent Bath Half-Marathon and raised sponsorship funds for the Friends, those who have provided hand-made goods for sale, and Tom Clarke, Artistic Director of the Bath Recital Artists Trust, who has kindly allowed the sale of the Friends’ goods at their Sunday evening concerts throughout the year and has offered to join us in putting on a fund-raising concert in spring/summer of 2014.

How the Funds have been used

In the last few years the Friends have funded items, equipment and events including:

- a bone density scanner to enhance the diagnosis of osteoporosis
- a hoist for the treatment pool
- special beds and mattresses for the children’s ward to prevent the formation of bed sores
- a patient information and resource room with computer facilities
- a range of oak seating specifically designed for the comfort of patients to be placed in the newly refurbished Hospital garden
- therapeutic games for in-patients on the Head Injury Unit
- new cubicle/privacy curtains in attractive modern fabric for all wards and units within the Rheumatology Department
- a replacement music system for the Ankylosing Spondylitis Course
- specialist medical equipment and furniture
- upgrading Bath Hospital Radio’s broadcasting system to give improved access by patients at the Min
- a number of items for the Rheumatology Department including a Gait Trainer
- an inverted microscope for use in the Hospital’s research programme
- computer software for use by Neuro-Rehabilitation patients
- body support equipment
- activities and trips for individual and groups of patients
- support for the new displays of historical artefacts
- printing of patient specialist information booklets
- equipment and toys for Children’s Cubicles
- artificial Christmas trees
• projector
• equipment for the patient gym

At the special request of the families of former patients their donations were used for the provision of a birdbath for the garden and also planting miniature spring bulbs.

**On-going services**
In addition to our special projects and events, the Friends also provide a range of on-going services to patients, such as:

• financial support for Bath Hospital Radio
• flower displays to help make the RNHRD a welcoming and friendly Hospital

The Friends can give an assurance that donations and bequests will be put to the direct benefit of patients and staff in the Hospital.

**Diary Dates 2015 / Programme of Fund-Raising Events**
These will be planned and organised by the Committee from January 2015. Full details will be published as soon as possible.

**The Management Committee**
The Association of Friends appoint a committee of up to 20 members who organise the fund-raising events, agree how the funds should be used, run the Patients’ Library, in some cases work as volunteers within the hospital, and generally seek to promote the work of the Association of Friends and the hospital.

The Committee and its Officers are appointed at the Friends’ Annual General Meeting held in May/June in the Lecture Hall, main hospital building.

The Committee’s meetings are held approximately every two months and usually take place in the Lecture Hall on a Friday morning at 10.30am.

If you are interested in joining the Committee, when a vacancy arises, or would like further information about the Committee’s work, please contact one of the Officers whose contact details are shown below.

**The Committee's Officers 2013/14**

Chairman  Prof. Francis Ring  01225 864016  efring@glam.ac.uk
Little Orchard, 179 Ashley Lane, Winsley BA15 2HR

Vice-Chairman  Dr Cyril Davies  01225 316254  doccd@talktalk.net
Bradway, Entry Hill Drive, BATH BA2 5NL
Hon. Treasurer  Judith Hooper  07871 773554  
judithahooper@gmail.com  
1 Haydens, High Street  
WRINGTON BS40 5QD, N. Somerset

Membership Secretary  Sue Bright  01225 445038  
susan.a.bright@btinternet.com  
32 Ringwood Road, Bath BA2 3JL

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32 Ringwood Road, Bath BA2 3JL

Sincere Thanks to all our Members, Donors and Helpers
We are so grateful to everyone who helps support the Association of Friends and the work of the hospital.

If you would like to join in our work in any way, please contact the following:

- Joining the Management Committee (subject to available vacancies)  
  Prof. Francis Ring, Chairman or Sue Bright, Secretary

- Joining the Association of Friends as a subscribing member  
  Sue Bright, Membership Secretary

- Giving a donation  
  Judith Hooper, Treasurer or Sue Bright, Secretary

- Helping at the Friends' fund-raising events or running your own fund-raising event on behalf of the Friends  
  Francis Ring, Chairman or Sue Bright, Secretary

- Submitting a request for funding (hospital staff or associates of the hospital only) – application form available from the Secretary  
  Sue Bright, Secretary

- General information about the Friends  
  Sue Bright, Secretary

Updated: 2.12.14