



## TAKE CARE - BE CORONAVIRUS AWARE

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

**PRESS RELEASE - For immediate publication**

**March 20, 2020**

- Friends of The Yeatman Hospital suspend door-to-door collections
- The health and wellbeing of collectors and donors comes first
- Coronavirus impact on local charity income

Trustees of the Friends of The Yeatman Hospital this week agreed to suspend the practice of door-to-door collection of annual subscriptions to the charity in response to the unprecedented Coronavirus outbreak.

David Hayes, Chairman of the Friends explained.

“The protection of the health, safety and wellbeing of our collectors and Friends is of the utmost importance to us. Throughout the year our collectors come face to face with hundreds of Friends as they go door-to-door collecting funds for the charity.

“Today I have written to both collectors and Friends to inform them we are suspending this practice for the foreseeable future as I recognise our responsibility to ensure they are not exposed to any risk of contracting Coronavirus.

“The financial impact is insignificant when compared to the potential health risks to both groups.

“I have invited those Friends who wish to continue to support the charity to do so by either a direct debit or by cheque.”

There are more than 1300 registered Friends in and around Sherborne and 45 collectors who bring more than £25,000 to the Charity each year.

### **Further information:**

**Friends of The Yeatman Hospital: Tony Meehan 07768 850 855**

### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

The Friends of The Yeatman Hospital is a UK registered charity whose main aims are

- To provide funds to support additional facilities and equipment to contribute to the efficient running of the hospital;
- To work for the comfort and dignity of the patients;
- To encourage and foster public support of the hospital.

The Friends of the Yeatman Hospital - Registered Charity Number 1031326