



## **TAKE CARE – BE CORONAVIRUS AWARE**

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

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- The Friends of the Yeatman AGM set for 16<sup>th</sup> November
- First time the Friends AGM to go Virtual
- COVID19 created unique challenges for the Friends.
- Charity avoids major income shortfall

David Hayes, Chairman of Friends of Yeatman Hospital, today announced plans for the first virtual Annual General meeting on November 16, and confirmed the charity avoided a major income shortfall thanks to the generosity of volunteers and an outstanding public response to the requests for support. Because of this, new health projects, brought about by COVID19 were supported.

“We are finalising detailed plans for our first virtual online Annual General Meeting in November. Essentially this will enable us to meet our responsibilities under Charity Law and our Constitution, allow Friends to submit questions to the Board of Trustees in advance of the meeting, and vote on different issues.

“At the meeting we shall put forward the motion to amend the current Constitution and vote on the appointment of new office holders and trustees in accordance with our rules of rotation.

To attend the virtual meeting, Friends will need to register online through our website [www.friendsoftheyeatman.org.uk](http://www.friendsoftheyeatman.org.uk) where they will find full information on the meeting, how to submit questions and rules on how the meeting will proceed and ability to vote.

In advance of the meeting Hayes also confirmed that despite the impact of COVID19, the Friends received and benefited from outstanding support from the people of Sherborne.

“In addition to providing much needed PPE, scrub bags and nursing staff gowns to the Yeatman and local surgeries, the Friends continued its ongoing Sherborne Community outreach to support the Community Kitchen, Blood Bikers, Emotionally Connected Sherborne, and local nursing homes.

“Fortunately, we were able to avoid a major shortfall to our regular income thanks to the generosity of members of the public. In a normal year, our fund-raising programme of door to door collections, car boot sales, quizzes, boxes, activity, would raise around £40,000. This year, thanks to the generosity of the public and friends of the Yeatman, a range of different and new fundraising ventures came into being. These included making masks, hospital gowns and scrub bags, ad-hoc garage sales, sale of an art collection, sale of shirts, online virtual quizzes, a social distanced pub quiz, and many other activities created by staff of Sherborne based companies. Between April and August, we received in excess of £30,000.

“In conclusion, I would ask all of those Friends who are unable to continue their much-valued support, because of our decision to stop door to door collections, to consider alternative ways to do so, which can be found on our website.”

END

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

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

The Friends of The Yeatman Hospital is a 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