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RJAH make generous donation of unused
medical equipment to Ukraine

ISSUE 6 CHIRON VETERANS' ORTHOPAEDIC NEWSLETTER



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VOS selected by RAF Shawbury as
one of their charities of the year

THE 69 GURKHA FIELD SQUADRON P.3

We were delighted to welcome
members of the 69 Gurkha Field
Squadron to the Vets' Centre

MESSAGE FROM LIEUTENANT COLONEL CARL MEYER, O.B.E.

The situation regarding funding for Veteran patients has at last improved. To recap, the NHS is comprised of Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) that commission services from providers. An inadvertent change in NHS policy meant ICBs from outside our region did not pay for services provided by the Veterans Orthopaedic Service (VOS).



Since over half our Veterans come from outside Shropshire this had a devastating effect. Great efforts have been made by our managerial team, and now 34 of 36 ICBs have paid. We continue to pursue the remaining ICBs.

We are fortunate to have strong support from local MPs such as Helen Morgan and Stuart Anderson. All supporters of Veterans Healthcare need to be vocal to ensure it remains on the national agenda. National collaboration and engagement are essential to mitigate future crises.

VOS was delivered through the partnership of the council, local community and The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. It demonstrates what can be achieved when maximal benefit is derived from minimal resources.

Visitors are impressed by the scope, dedication and performance of VOS staff and stakeholders. Despite the recent difficulties we continue to advance Veterans orthopaedic care. There remains much to do.

ALL SUPPORTERS OF VETERANS HEALTHCARE NEED TO BE VOCAL TO ENSURE IT REMAINS ON THE NATIONAL AGENDA

MESSAGE FROM HARRY TURNER CHAIRMAN

During recent months, we have had the pleasure of welcoming many new and returning visitors to our Veterans' Orthopaedic Centre, with many featured in the pages of this newsletter.

These interactions forge vital partnerships, aimed at supporting, understanding and strengthening our commitment to Veterans' Orthopaedic Service (VOS) patients.

As part of a proud and thriving community, VOS staff remain dedicated and focused on providing exemplary bespoke healthcare, tailored to meet the unique requirements of Armed Forces personnel.

We are looking forward to welcoming many more patients and visitors to the Hub in forthcoming months, as we did for our celebrations marking the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, on 08 June 25. That was certainly another memorable occasion.



RAF SHAWBURY CHARITY OF THE YEAR

The Veterans' Orthopaedic Service (VOS) is delighted to have been selected by RAF Shawbury as one of their charities of the year, for 2025

Representatives of RAF Shawbury visited the Hub, on 24 Jan, to tell VOS team members about their plans for the forthcoming year. Plans included supporting the charity through a series of fundraising events and volunteer support.

Flight Lieutenant Adrian Vine said:

"RAF Shawbury always looks to support 3 charities each year, ideally one's with a local connection, one's with a military connection and one's often personal. It's hit all 3 here, it's personal for me because I've have been fortunate to have some treatment here, it's local because it's in Shropshire and the Veterans' Hub has the military connection, so it ticks all of those boxes."

"Hopefully as the year goes through, we can help to promote the Veterans' Hub and the initiatives moving forward."

As part of the scheme, we were very pleased to welcome a team of 8 RAF Shawbury Personnel to the hospital on the 24 and 25 March. The volunteers completed a full renovation of the roundabout at the front of the hospital, working tirelessly to deliver a much-needed revitalised outlook at the main entrance.



THE 69 GURKHA FIELD SQUADRON

We were delighted to welcome members of the 69 Gurkha Field Squadron to the Veterans' Orthopaedic Centre recently.

Staff Sergaent Raju Tulachan said of the visit:

"It was a pleasure working with you all. The biggest highlight being when we were able to visit the Hospital and it made us feel like VVIP. Thank you for that."



RJAH SHOWS SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

Staff at The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital (RJAH) made a generous donation of unused medical equipment to the Driving Ukraine scheme, at the beginning of the year.

Former police officer Steve Eccleshall contacted RJAH with a request for assistance with the project, which focuses on delivering emergency support, medical equipment and supplies to those affected by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

Volunteers drove second-hand service vehicles, including ambulances, 4x4 pickups, and vans to frontlines, and staff at RJAH packed the trucks full of donated, second-hand, lifesaving, medical equipment.

Items donated included prosthetics and physiotherapy tools, providing critical support to evacuation teams, hospitals, and first responders, helping save lives in the field.

For more information about Driving Ukraine, please visit: drivingukraine.org



SKYDIVING VETERAN REACHES FOR THE SKY

Malcolm Moran is no ordinary man. At 75, after facing the immense challenge of losing a leg, he's proving that nothing can keep him down!

To celebrate his 75th birthday, Malcolm will be taking in a tandem parachute jump - he's taking to the skies on 6th July 2025 (weather permitting) for a breathtaking parachute tandem jump, showing the world that resilience knows no bounds.

This isn't just about the thrill of the jump—it's about inspiring others to push past their own challenges and embrace life to the fullest. By sponsoring Malcolm, you'll be supporting his incredible journey and helping raise awareness for the Veterans' Orthopaedic Service, Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt, Orthopaedic Hospital, Gobowen.

Let's rally behind Malcolm as he defies gravity and expectations. Every contribution, big or small, will help make this unforgettable leap possible.

Donate today and be part of Malcolm's fearless adventure!

For further information, please visit: www.justgiving.com/page/malcolm-moran-2



JIM GEORGE

We had a great chat with Jim George about serving in the RAF Fire & Rescue Service, and the reasons behind his passion for the Veterans' Hub.

When did you join the Royal Air Force?

When I was 17 years of age. I grew up in a farming community in Bridgnorth and if truth be known, I looked to escape farming life and decided to sign myself up for the RAF in 1976. I started my basic training at RAF Swinderby, then RAF Catterick. I was first stationed at RAF Coningsby.

Why did you choose to enrol in Fire and rescue? That's an intense choice.

It was exciting and I loved it, full of lots of totally random routines and unexpected situations and emergencies. Once I finished training, I was despatched to various locations across the globe including Gibraltar, Germany and Cyprus. But after six years I felt my career was uncertain and I needed a change, so I left the RAF.

I then had a varied career in transport and distribution which took me all over the UK and Europe.

So when did you start volunteering at the Trust?

I started volunteering in Horatio's Garden when it first opened in 2019 and then when they built the Veterans centre, I learnt that they were looking for Veteran Volunteers and jumped at the chance.

What do you enjoy most about being a Veteran Volunteer?

That's easy, it's the people. Being surrounded by like-minded people.

Being in the military you don't actually need to say anything to each other, you just need to give a nod, or a wink and you "know". Being in the forces you understand each other, and I enjoy being around military people. There's no rank in the Veterans hub – we all respect each other and enjoy sharing stories and experiences.

If someone asked you what the Veterans hub was, what would you say?

A safe place, a community, a group of friends, a sanctuary ... yes a sanctuary is the best way to describe it. It's a place where Veterans can come and get help, whether it's being sign posted to an organisation or service or where they can come and just talk. You can talk to the Veteran volunteers or just have a cuppa and be yourself. It's a little gem for the ex-forces.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD AT THE VETERANS' HUB RV CAFE

At the beginning of the year, Veterans' Hub staff, volunteers and patients gathered for a leaving celebration, to say a huge thank you and bid a fond farewell to League of Friends Coffee Shop Supervisor Manon Kilpatrick.

A

firm favourite in the Veterans' Hub, Manon was known for her wonderful smile and bright welcome at the RV Café, having worked there since its opening in 2022.

A much loved and treasured member of the team, her professionalism, customer service and warmth have played a huge part in the success of the Veterans' Hub, and she will be greatly missed.

Manon will be starting a new career in horticulture, and we wish her all the very best for the future.



THE RV



NEW APPOINTMENT TO THE VETERANS' HUB TEAM

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e are delighted to welcome Julia MacDonald to the team at the RV Café in the Veterans' Hub. Julia has been appointed the new League of Friends Coffee Shop Supervisor and is proving to be extremely popular with the patients, staff, volunteers and visitors.

The RV Cafe is open to the public, as well as service users, and Julia is the first point of contact for many individuals. Serving up hot and cold drinks, cakes and snacks, she continues to offer a bright warm welcome to the Veterans' Hub.

STUART ANDERSON MP SUPPORTS VETERANS' ORTHOPAEDIC CENTRE

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e were pleased to welcome Stuart Anderson, the Conservative MP for South Shropshire on 20 February.

Stuart visited shortly after his own surgery to rectify complications from a historic gunshot wound that he had sustained in the Army some thirty years ago. A mix of bone fragment and shrapnel lodged in his foot made it increasingly difficult for him to walk.

He met with the VOS team and showed his support for the Veterans' Hub:

"As a Veteran, I am absolutely committed to making Shropshire the best place to be a Veteran. There are 2.4 million Veterans in Great Britain. South Shropshire alone is home to over 4,000 Veterans, almost one in ten households. They have given so much in service of our country and should be provided with a gold standard of support."



SAHA FC ladies

VOS SPONSORS SAHA FC LADIES FOOTBALL TEAM



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he Veterans' Orthopaedic Service (VOS) are now the proud sponsors of the SAHA FC Ladies football team.

The sponsorship includes provision of football shirts for the team.

Lieutenant Colonel Meyer said: "We are very pleased to be able to offer this sponsorship to the team, as it provides a great opportunity to support local sport and simultaneously delivers VOS awareness to a wider audience."

Where's the flag

The Veterans' Orthopaedic Standard took to the slopes in France recently, along with Lieutenant Colonel Carl Meyer, Mr Whittaker, Mr U and Enhanced Recovery Lead Rebecca Warren.



Skiing in France



HOW WE WORK



The Veterans' Orthopaedic Service continues to develop and grow in response to the needs of our patients.

Supported by the RJAH Charity, with a fund reserved especially for veterans.

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he hospital is grateful to every individual and organisation that has contributed to the building of the Headley Court Veterans' Orthopaedic Centre, built entirely with charitable donations. Sincere thanks to all involved.

To learn more about the work of the charity, to volunteer or if you want to support us you can contact:

Email: Victoria Sugden (Charity Director)
v.sugden@nhs.net

Tel: Central Office – 01691 404527

Web: www.rjah.nhs.uk/veterans
www.rjah.nhs.uk/charity



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