

## Blandford Heart Forum

### July 2013 Newsletter

Dear Members,

Summer seems to have arrived at last with the prospect of high temperatures and wall to wall sunshine for the week ahead at least.

Our next general Meeting is on the 18 July when our Speaker will be Mr. Bob Sharpe whose talk is entitled "The History of Crime Writing". Do please come along despite the "pull" of the delights of this Summer weather and the Outdoors..

There will (as usual) be no meeting in August, but please note in your diaries/calendars that our AGM is on the 19 September when Dr. Simon Winterton , the Senior Cardiologist at Dorchester Hospital, will be talking about recent developments in Cardiology.

Referring back to my June Newsletter, I have to inform you that our Treasurer has issued a further stark warning that our Financial situation has further deteriorated . Failing a pick up in our Finances , we have to face the fact that the BHF may not be able to continue beyond this year. The Committee has taken immediate steps to improve matters by ceasing the Exercise Classes , run so effectively by Don Bird over past years. These Classes, however, had become increasingly uneconomic to run in recent times with the Membership steadily falling away , causing a substantial drain on our funds. We too have witnessed a fall in Membership for a number of reasons. We have an aging number of people and have sadly lost a number of these members over the past year. This, coupled with the fact that we are now unable to use the Blandford Hospital for our meetings at no cost, due to security regulations from ' on high', has meant that our net income has declined to a worrying level.

We have been discussing possible ways to improve matters and have considered alternative cheaper accommodation to the Williams Opportunity Hall in Blandford. To date, however, there is no suitable alternative available. Hugh and Liz are meeting the Matron at Blandford Community Hospital on the 18 July in the hope that he might be able to influence the Health Authority to allow us to again use the Day Hospital or the Restaurant for our meetings. I have to say, that this could be a vain hope, but worth a try !! Using the Williams Opportunity Hall costs us £22/evening and the Speakers cost between £30 to £50 .

I very much regret having to bring this worrying State of Affairs to your attention and I know that we are not alone in facing Hard Times, but without your sustained and loyal support, the future of the BHF is very much in doubt.

On a brighter note, Betty informs us that the Ramblers continue to be well supported and their programme of Dorset Walks remains a real attraction to many.

Looking ahead as we must, we have excellent speakers lined up for you in October and November and in addition we have booked the Christmas Party at the Hospital for the 28 November. Later dates in December were unavailable unfortunately.

All Best Wishes to you All

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5 July 2013-07-05

Cc; Dr. Simon Winterton, Cardiology Department, Dorset County Hospital, Dorchester.

PS.: If you have an e mail address, please let me know to save on Postage for future Newsletters