Road named in honour of Andover War Memorial Hospital founding father

THE generosity of one of the founding fathers of Andover War Memorial Hospital was celebrated during a special road naming ceremony held in his honour.

The road leading up to the hospital has been named Henry Gamman Drive in memory of the man who donated the land that the hospital was built on 90 years ago.

Descendants of Henry Gamman travelled from as far away as Durham to join the Mayor of Test Valley, hospital staff, volunteers and members of the public at the ceremony, cutting a celebratory cake baked in the hospital kitchen to mark the occasion.

Mr Gamman was a businessman who had a number of interests in Andover. On hearing about plans to build a hospital to serve the town, he purchased a portion of land off Charlton Road and donated the entire site to the hospital committee. The hospital, which opened in 1926, was built on the land and remains there to this day.

Mr Gamman had two children, Gilbert and Edward, both of whom were killed in action during the First World War. Edward married while home on leave in 1916 and his wife gave birth to a baby girl the following year, but he was killed just one month later and never saw his daughter.

Jen Frampton and Ted Williams, who are the grandchildren of that baby girl, making them Henry Gamman’s great grandchildren, were present for the ceremony, along with Jen’s daughter and grandchildren, who travelled down from Durham for the event.

Jen said: “It is a great honour for us, as direct descendants of Henry Gamman, to be here today. Neither of Henry’s sons had a marked grave, so he donated this land to the War Memorial Hospital in their memory.”

Councillor Karen Hamilton, the Mayor of Test Valley, added: “It’s a real privilege to be here today. It’s amazing to have the family of Henry Gamman here for this special occasion, as without him, we may not have this hospital, which is a very special asset to the town.”

Elizabeth Padmore, chairman of Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Andover hospital, said: “Henry Gamman’s wonderful generosity inspired others in Andover and the whole town united to raise the funds needed to build the hospital.

“It is easy to see how this sense of community and generosity is still strong in Andover today. We see it in the Friends of Andover War Memorial Hospital, in the Trustees of our outstanding Countess of Brecknock Hospice, in the dedication of our volunteers and, last but by no means least, in the compassion and commitment of our staff.”

After the ceremony, lots of local people enjoyed an open day at the hospital, getting a glimpse behind the scenes.
They were able to take a tour of the hospital’s operating theatres, learning about the procedures carried out at the hospital and the equipment used, while there was also the chance to look around the kitchens and sample the food available to patients.

A number of fun activities took place in the Countess of Brecknock Hospice, including an opportunity to learn about, hold and even fly owls, as well as a Chair Zumba session.

People attending also got the chance to visit the radiology department, where they could meet a skeleton and learn about x-rays, find out about the decontamination equipment used by the trust and discover how to give life-saving first aid.

ENDS

Photos:

AWMH Open Day – Sign crowd: Elizabeth Padmore, chairman of HHFT, with the descendants of Henry Gamman, the Mayor of Test Valley and the new road sign.

AWMH Open Day – Cake: Henry Gamman’s great grandchildren, Jen Frampton and Ted Williams, and Jen’s grandson Henry, cut the celebratory cake.

We have loads of pictures from the open day, including shots of owls in flight and chair Zumba, available on request. Easily enough for a picture spread, if you like. Please get in touch if you would like any more pictures.

Notes to Editors

1. Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust provides hospital services to a population of approximately 600,000 people in Hampshire and parts of West Berkshire.
2. HHFT has around 5,500 staff and a turnover of £345.6 million a year.
3. HHFT delivers one hospital service across multiple locations including its own hospitals, Andover War Memorial Hospital, Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital and Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester. It also provides outpatient and assessment services from Bordon and Alton community hospitals.
4. As a Foundation Trust, HHFT is accountable to the local community through a system of local ownership with members and elected governors. HHFT has around 18,000 staff and public members. Foundation Trusts are free from central government control and can reinvest any surplus to develop clinical services. They are authorised and regulated by NHS Improvement, an independent regulator.

Media contacts
- Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
(01256) 313062, communications@hhft.nhs.uk