Road naming ceremony to launch Andover War Memorial Hospital Open Day

THE road leading up to Andover War Memorial Hospital is to be named Henry Gamman Drive in honour of the hospital’s founding father.

Henry 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.

To commemorate Mr Gamman’s generosity, Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Andover War Memorial Hospital, has successfully applied to name the main road in and out of the site in his honour.

A new road sign will be officially unveiled by Councillor Karen Hamilton, the Mayor of Test Valley, and members of the Gamman family, at 10am on Saturday, 20 August.

Elizabeth Padmore, chairman of Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said: “Without Henry Gamman there might not be a hospital in Andover so we have a great deal to thank him for.

“Naming the road in his honour is our small way of recognising the enormous effect he had, not only on Andover War Memorial Hospital, but on the town of Andover in general.”

Once the unveiling has taken place, the hospital will open its doors to the public, providing an opportunity for people to take a look behind the scenes.

You can learn about operating theatres, taking a tour around areas rarely seen by the public, try on a special suit that gives you an insight into the way dementia and old age affect the body, have a look around the hospital kitchens and much more during the open day, which will run from 10am until 2pm.

When you arrive, collect a map from the outpatients department, where there will also be a wide range of interactive displays available, and plan your visit.

You can take a tour of the mobile chemotherapy unit that provides treatment for cancer in Andover, or watch a demonstration of the way our decontamination tents and suits work. The fire service will also be on hand with one of their engines.

Elizabeth added: “It promises to be a fun-packed day, with activities to keep the whole family entertained.

“It’s a great chance for the public to get a look behind the scenes at their local hospital, speak to some of our clinical experts and learn about the great work that goes on in the trust.

“I’m very much looking forward to it, and I would encourage people to come along and enjoy what should be a really good event.”
The event is free, with parking available at the hospital for those attending.

ENDS

PHOTOS: You are invited to send reporters/photographers along to the unveiling and the Open Day. Once they have unveiled the new road sign, we are hoping that the Mayor will take part in a couple of activities, providing some good photo opportunities.

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 Monitor, an independent regulator.

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