

TRUST NEWS

The Volunteer army that fights for you

PATIENTS, staff and managers in the Trust owe a debt of gratitude to the many volunteers who raise money for hospital equipment or give up their time to provide support for patients and staff.

The volunteers provide their own unique service to each of the four hospitals in the Trust.

At Inverclyde Royal Hospital, the members of the Women's Royal

Voluntary Service (WRVS) kindly donated, among other pieces of equipment, £25,000 to purchase a YAG Laser for the Ophthalmology Department which will help to improve the vision in certain post-operative patients.

The volunteers also provide a very valued service through the Tea Bar – run by the Hospital League of Friends – and the hospital shop, operated by the WRVS.

The personal contribution of Helen Wylie to the League of Friends at Inverclyde was recognised in January of this year when she was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List.

Particular thanks at the Lorn & Islands Hospital go to the many volunteers whose contributions range from running the WRVS trolley shop and library service to assistance at meal times.

Again the tireless army of helpers have raised considerable funds which have been used for equipment, such as a patient hoist and lead aprons for x-ray.

The Rotary Club paid for lab equipment such as a small centrifuge and further funding was also provided for a patient-controlled analgesic device.

It was a similar story at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, where the WRVS helpers not only provide a Conservatory Café, gift shop and trolley service, but also raise funds for medical equipment. (see page 5 - article on HDU)

This year the WRVS excelled themselves and managed to raise funds for a new shuttle bus, built to meet the needs of users of the service.

The new vehicle has easy passenger access, ramps and space for a wheelchair in the rear of the bus.

Also, for the first time at the RAH, a group of volunteers, organised by the hospital chaplains, took Christmas cheer to the patients and staff in the wards.

In the past year the contri-



The RAH volunteers hand over the shuttle bus.



IRH consultant Dr Gupta thanks the volunteers for the YAG Laser.



A volunteer in action at Vale of Leven Hospital.



The WRVS shop at Lorn and Islands Hospital.

but ion made by the volunteers, at the Vale of Leven hospital, has been outstanding.

Taking a closer look at the current volunteer activity at the Vale, is like taking a walk in the Garden which has:

- Evergreens – the hospital 'Friends', who arrange flowers, entertain and fundraise to provide equipment;
- Corners bold & bright – the WRVS shop and trolley service –

who can remember life without them;

- Seasonal flourish – the 'Patient Focus' volunteers who work in the day hospital and the wards organising activities such as horticulture and beauty therapy.

The volunteers are vital to the running of the Trust and provide an excellent service to the local community at each of the four hospitals.