

The Friends of Combe Down Surgery
Charity Number 1109889

Sept 25 2025

Dear Friends,

I hope you have enjoyed the summer months and were able to make the most of the warm weather. We had high expectations of another warm sunny day for our summer fair but the weather suddenly turned and instead of sheltering from the heat under the gazebos we found ourselves sheltering from a sudden rain storm. This did not dampen our spirits, however, and we enjoyed a successful morning which raised £986 There was a repeat of our Bake Off competition and afterwards slices of the cakes were enjoyed by many of us. Thanks to Mandy for organising this again for us. There was plenty more cake to be enjoyed too as we had commissioned a celebration cake to celebrate twenty years of the Friends which was also shared. Many old friends returned for this event and there were speeches by former GPs Andrew Smith and Imogen Batterham.

Our next event, the Autumn fair, takes place on Saturday September 27 from 10.00 am and this will include a harvest stall along with the usual stalls of a raffle, books and puzzles and nearly new. So please bring along any spare produce, chutneys and cakes. Please remember to label cakes with any allergens they may contain. Allergens include peanuts, milk, eggs and wheat. Make a note too of the date of our Christmas fair which takes place Saturday December 6th

As I wrote in my last newsletter the use of the minibus has continued to decline. Often the drivers have given up their morning only to find they have no passengers. At our most recent committee meeting a final decision was made to discontinue the service from the end of September. As it turns out, the minibus is finally starting to show its age and is in need of expensive repairs so this consolidated the decision.

There are a number of alternative transport services on offer these days which can be more flexible. The committee has investigated and it seems Bath Community Transport offer a good, cheap service. They can be contacted on 01225832317. Information about this and other transport opportunities can be found on <https://livewell.bathnes.gov.uk/community-transport>.

The committee is looking at how the money saved could be better used to support patients in other ways including an alternative and more inclusive scheme to support patient travel. I hope to give you more information about this in my next newsletter

I hope to see you at our next event

Kind regards

Janet

Janet Read
Secretary to the Friends of Combe Down Surgery