

BLANDFORD TOWN MUSEUM

B&D U3A CHARITY OF THE YEAR 2019

When considering a charity for 2019, the Committee drew up a list of both home-grown and national organisations, all of which are deserving of support. However, after much discussion, the choice was finally whittled down to Blandford Town Museum.

Run by a team of volunteers, the Town Museum is housed in a building in Bere's Yard, just off the main Market Place, and offers our community and visitors to the town a wealth of information and displays illustrating the varied history of Blandford, its inhabitants and surrounding area, from the Stone Age to the present time. What many don't realise is the breadth of the Museum's work and just how much they offer: special interest clubs, projects working with local schools and young people and an extensive archive available to those drawn to neighbourhood and family history. They'll be open again in 2019 from the beginning of April until October.

The Committee is delighted to be working with the Museum this year and looks forward to helping boost its funds and expanding contact with its enthusiastic band of volunteers.

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED – BRYANSTON GROUP

B&D U3A CHARITY OF THE YEAR 2018

It was with much pleasure that, at our January open meeting, Christine Smith (Chairman) handed over a cheque for £342.72 to Lin Johnson, Chairman of the RDA's Bryanston Group.

Lin told the meeting that the money would go towards modifying standard riding equipment to make it suitable for use with the various riders of all ages and abilities who come along to enjoy this wonderful therapy on a regular basis. She also invited members to visit them at their meetings at Bryanston and meet the horses, riders and volunteers.

FRIENDS OF BLANDFORD COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

B&D U3A CHARITY OF THE YEAR 2017

We were delighted to welcome Mac McLaughlin, Deputy Chairman of The Friends of Blandford Community Hospital, to our open meeting in January 2018 and to present him with a cheque for £402.64 collected during the course of the previous year from the proceeds of the sale of tea & cake at open meetings, raffles at social events and other donations.

Mac sent us a lovely 'thank you' which was published in our Spring 2018 newsletter and it was great to know that the money will go towards a project to enhance the lives of dementia patients at the hospital.

Members were also busy during 2017 knitting Bravery Bears, Twiddlemitts and blankets, which will be distributed to various units at the hospital – the Craft Group continue to knit for the hospital.