

Our Visit to Wessex Heartbeat House

On Friday, we will have our last Non-Uniform Day of the year, to raise money for Rotary Heartbeat House. A couple of weeks ago, six of us visited the house with Miss Bessey and Mr Hayes, who drove the minibus. We were invited to look around their facilities and to find out what they did and where our money would go.

We met some lovely staff who were very friendly and answered all our questions. Tanya showed us around after we had a glass of orange squash.



Rotary Heartbeat House is a residential home with twenty bedrooms for the relatives of patients with heart problems. It is three minutes from the front door to the hospital cardiac ward, so it is really close for relatives and patients, as well as giving them peace of mind knowing that their loved ones are just a short walk away.

Relatives are charged a one off fee of £35 and with that, they get a bedroom, bedding, towels and a fully equipped kitchen so that they can cook meals and not rely on take-away food.

The house is very clean and calm. There is a big conservatory that leads to a garden where people can sit and relax.

Whilst being known for doing such a noble cause there are extreme expenses to carry on helping patients' families. The prices to run the charity can go up to £87,000 per year as shown in the picture. For a one-off cost of just £35, families are allowed to stay there while their loved ones are in hospital.



Costs for running Heatbeat House

It was a phenomenal as well as a really educational visit. As you can see in the photos we are currently being shown the heart wall. This is one of the most significant part of the charity (also one of our favourite parts) it is dedicated to people who have died due to heart conditions and to people who have survived heart conditions.



The charity also work hard at helping the surgeons. We were shown some amazing heart models. These are models of real live hearts that have problems. The patients have scans that are then sent to Ireland who make these scans into 3-D models of the heart. Surgeons then can dismantle the hearts and practise surgery before they operate on the real hearts. These can cost up to £600 per model. These are based on actual children's hearts that have gone under surgery. The material is to be as to be similar to a real heart. These will be used as teaching tools for cases that come into the hospital at later dates.



Please give as generously as you can on Friday. We are asking everyone to donate £1.50 so that this wonderful charity can keep supporting the families of Southampton, surrounding area and further afield.

Thank you very much in advance for your help

Very best wishes

Louis, Nathan, Daniel, Archie, Jack and Olivia

On behalf of all the Learning Leaders at Fairisle Junior School