

PRESS RELEASE

13th December 2016

Dudley cardiologist and part-time musician plays charity gig for Pakistan hospital

A consultant cardiologist, and bass player with a Midlands-based progressive rock band, is staging a charity gig for a cash-strapped Pakistan hospital to help prevent thousands of deaths from heart disease.

Dr Matt Banks, Acting Medical Director at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, is making music with his band 4.O.M at the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath, Birmingham on Friday 23rd December 2016 to raise money for Bewal International Hospital.

The state-of-the-art hospital in Pakistan was built thanks to the tireless fundraising of Dudley consultant vascular surgeon, Mr Atiq Rehman, on land donated by his uncle.

“Bewal International Hospital in the Pothohar region of Pakistan, is the first of its kind. It provides health services to more than 300,000 people in a very poor region,” said Dr Banks.

“The region of Pothohar is very poor, and whilst many health services are free at the point of use, there is a limit in terms of what can be achieved due to a lack of funding, available resources, and knowledge about how to treat heart related conditions.

“The money raised will help fund a small team of UK-based cardiologists to deliver educational programmes to health professionals, and local communities, on how best to treat and prevent the disease in the first place.

“The cardiologists will also be spending their time working closely with their counterparts in Pakistan, to pass on their knowledge and skills, and to advise on best practice for certain procedures.”

Doors at the Hare and Hounds open at 8pm. Tickets cost £10 and are available on the door or from the Hare and Hounds website <http://hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk/>

*****ENDS*****

For more information, contact Jackie Dietrich, Communications Manager at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust on (01384) 456111 extension 1314 or email jackie.dietrich@dgh.nhs.uk

Notes to Editor:

Band members of 4.O.M are:

Jon Sandilands: guitarist and vocalist

Matt Banks: bass guitar

John Small: drums

Tony Carter: keyboards and vocals

Gary Hebro: vocals and guitar

Iain Davies: rhythm guitar

Special guests Lisa Hebro from Bunny and the Moseleyites

Mish Maybe from the Alternative Dub Step Orchestra