

**The Friends of
Fareham Community Hospital**



*Patrons: Cllr. Brian Bayford; Lucy Docherty; Mark Hoban; Cllr. Sean Woodward
Chair: Jill Sadler*

NEWSLETTER NO.11

WINTER 2016

A VISIT OF THE HEALTH SECRETARY

We were delighted that Jeremy Hunt, the Health Secretary, recently visited the Hospital at the invitation of Fareham's MP, Suella Fernandes. While there, he unveiled the Dementia Friendly certificate awarded to the Hospital last year (the first hospital in Hampshire to achieve this status). As well as touring the Hospital, Mr Hunt met some of the members of the Task Force formed by Suella (see following page), and also members of staff and volunteers.

REPORTING IN THE DAILY ECHO

Following the revelations of the deficiencies shown by Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust in investigating the deaths of some of their patients, you may have seen an article on the subject in Southampton' Daily Echo before Christmas commenting on these shortcomings. It was headed by a photo of the Hospital with the caption "Fareham Community Hospital is one of the facilities run by the Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust." This, of course, is completely untrue; Southern Health is merely one of the Providers offering some administrative and health services at the Hospital. I immediately contacted the Editor of the Echo, and was happy to receive from him heartfelt regrets, and the promise to publish an apology and correction, which appeared in their issue of 18th January. This also repeated my point that we are not aware of any complaint about Southern Health's services at the Hospital.

PATIENTS' COMMENTS

The patients' Comments Book, kept on the table to the right of the main doors, is monitored by Rosemary, one of our Committee members. She types up the entries regularly and brings them to the Committee's attention, passing on any which seem to need dealing with to the Hospital authorities. Apart from the difficulties recorded due to the lack of public transport, we are glad to see that most are extremely positive.

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FUTURE PLANS FOR THE HOSPITAL

As I've described in a previous Newsletter, our Fareham & Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group has held Workshops to think about the ways in which health services at Fareham Community Hospital can be increased, and a number of new clinics have been put in place. With the support of Suella Fernandes MP these Workshops have become a Task Force, with representatives from those running the Hospital, the health service Providers, Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire County Council, discussing new ways in which the Hospital can serve the community. Their ideas have still to be worked out, but they are kindly including the Friends in their deliberations, and I hope to be able to keep you all updated on developments.

AUTISM AWARENESS

After a meeting with an autistic patient at the Hospital, Cheryl, one of our volunteer co-ordinators, arranged two autism awareness sessions for our volunteers and some of the NHS staff. These were very kindly provided by Autism Hampshire at no cost, but the Friends have made a donation to the charity.

RED CROSS DEPOT

Sadly, there have been further delays in the launch of this Depot; there seem to be more problems over the arrangements for the lease. The date for its opening now seems to be some time in March.

THELMA'S PARTY

Thelma Williamson, the Outpatient Supervisor, very kindly arranged an evening gathering in January for her team and for the Friends for their hard work and support. It was a lovely evening, with a chance for the volunteers to network and enjoy an amazing finger-food buffet, all hand-baked by Thelma and her team (except the mincepie tiffin courtesy of Barry!)

RECENT DONATIONS

We would like to thank Everetts the Chemists for a generous donation of £100, which will be put towards the next requests from Hospital staff for equipment to support their work.

Jill Sadler
Chair, Friends of Fareham Community Hospital