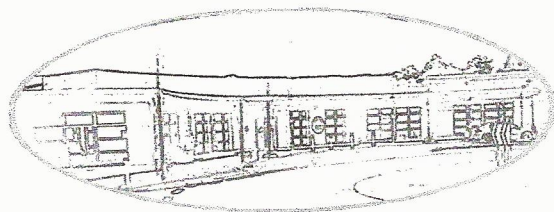


**The Friends of
Fareham Community Hospital**



Patrons: Cllr. Brian Bayford; Lucy Docherty; Mark Hoban; Cllr. Sean Woodward

NEWSLETTER NO.17 **WINTER 2018**

THE FAREHAM PRIMARY CARE SERVICE

You may well have seen a significant increase in the number of people at the Hospital; the Primary Care Service is proving very popular (although Stubbington Surgery has decided not to take part after all). An article in The Daily Echo in January reveals that almost 1,000 patients were seen in November. Dr Tom Bertram, clinical lead for the service, is quoted as saying "We are delighted with the way the service is proving so successful with the vast majority of patients who contact us asking for same-day appointments. And as we hoped, there are very encouraging signs that it is also helping to ease the pressure on routine non-emergency appointments at the participating GP practices."

An editorial comment in The Echo hails the service as 'A ray of light at a bleak time for our health services' and goes on to welcome it as a timely and encouraging initiative. Congratulations to all concerned!

VOLUNTEERS VISIT PARLIAMENT

On a cold, dry, sunny day in January I went with a group of our Volunteers to tour the Houses of Parliament, a visit arranged by our MP, Suella Fernandes, for our Hospitality Team to thank them for providing refreshments for her Health Summit and the Task Force meetings at the Hospital. After lunch in the Crypt of St Martin in the Fields, the group walked down Whitehall and entered Great Westminster Hall, to be welcomed by Suella and her staff before the formal visit. We were given a history of the building and some of the important events that had taken place there, and led round the imposing passages and chambers. An unforgettable experience, enjoyed by all I'm sure.

TALKS AT THE HOSPITAL

Many apologies for the cancellation of the scheduled Talk on January 25th - this was unavoidable at the last moment due to the illness of the presenter. Great

efforts were made to inform anyone who might have been expected to come, and in fact only two people did arrive - we hope they enjoyed the coffee and cakes provided by our Hospitality Team for those who did turn up!

The talk on "Sepsis - the Silent Killer" has been rescheduled for Wednesday 21st March at 7.00 pm at Fareham Community Hospital. Refreshments will be available from 6.30 pm - entrance fee of £5, payable at the door.

HOSPITAL INFORMATION SERVICE

The Information Service desk has been moved from the far right end of the Reception area to a more central position close to the Leaflet Stand - look for the banner. It's hoped that this will enable more people to make use of it; leaflets have also been circulated round the Hospital telling people about this valuable resource. Another recent attraction has been the arrival of the "Crime Clinic". Our local police force has asked if one of their officers could attend once a month, as part of their efforts to keep in contact with members of the community. We are happy to host this interesting initiative.

SENIOR CITIZENS FAIR

On 17th November the Friends' display board and information leaflets were taken to the second of the Senior Citizens Fairs set up by Suella Fernandes to provide publicity for businesses and local volunteer groups which offer help and support to the older members of the community. It was held at Fareham College in their large sports hall, and the many stands there gave some very helpful information on the services available. Our stand attracted plenty of attention - needless to say, the most often-made comment concerned the lack of a bus service to the Hospital!

Our MP evidently took note of this, as she has now launched a campaign to improve the situation by installing a bus stop at the Hospital and persuading the bus company to divert from their present route to serve the Hospital. Questionnaires about travel arrangements are being handed out to staff and patients at the Hospital - please look out for these and fill in one if it's appropriate.

I hope you are all keeping warm and well! With best wishes.

Petta Dillaway
Chair