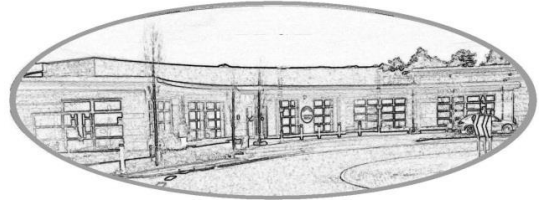


**The Friends of
Fareham Community Hospital**



Patrons: Alderman Brian Bayford, Councillor Seán Woodward, Lucy Docherty, Mark Hoban

FFCH NEWSLETTER 19

AUTUMN 2018

THE BLOOD TESTING SERVICE

At our Committee Meeting in September it was announced that from 1st October arrangements for blood tests at FCH would change. GP surgeries will provide their own blood testing, and tests at FCH will be available only for those required by hospital consultants, and will be booked from a central phone line. As a result our dedicated team of volunteers manning the blood test appointments desk will no longer be needed.

This is a very disappointing situation for our volunteers, who have worked so well and effectively for so long. A coffee morning to thank all those involved was held in October, and thanks were received from our Patron, Councillor Sean Woodward, of Fareham Borough Council. It's hoped that other opportunities for volunteer roles will become available with the future plans for the expansion of other Hospital Services.

THE NHS BIRTHDAY PARTY

On a lighter note, the CCG and the Hospital Management held a Tea Party in July to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the NHS, with the Friends helping with arrangements, and providing cakes! Health staff and volunteers were invited; Fareham's Mayor, Councillor Susan Bayford, opened the event and ceremonially cut the birthday cake.

To mark this event Pat Gulliford prepared a display to commemorate the 70th anniversary and Abbeycroft Nurseries kindly provided a number of large pots of fuchsias to decorate the roundabout flower bed at the Hospital entrance. They looked beautiful on the day, but when the Gardening Group arrived next day it was clear that they'd provided a Birthday Supper for our local deer herd! The pots had to be taken away for some restorative pruning.



MCMILLAN COFFE MORNING

Many volunteers baked cakes and helped with coffee for this event and we raised £204 for Macmillan.

THE GARDENING GROUP

Initial clearing of the roundabout bed and the planting of some shrubs and bulbs took place last autumn with the help of Fareham in Bloom. Our happy band of gardening volunteers have since tried very hard to keep it weed and thistle free throughout the spring and summer. We are now again weed-free, and Fareham in Bloom has returned to give us advice and help on the planting of more shrubs, which will hopefully be deer and drought resistant! As part of this support they have donated a splendid *Magnolia stellata* for the centre of the bed. We will now continue to maintain the bed, with the agreement that Fareham in Bloom will return twice yearly to help with pruning and any further planting of bare patches that may be needed.



WAITROSE CHARITY TOKEN – FFCH NOVEMBER 2018

Each month Waitrose & Partners at Locks Heath donates £1,000 between 3 local good causes. During November FFCH will be one of the 3 charities which you can support. The more tokens we receive from you, the bigger the proportion of the £1000 we receive. Please donate your green tokens to FFCH.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

This event, to thank our volunteers for all their hard work during the year, will take place on Friday 14th December, 10.00 – 12.00 in the Tom Smith room - invitations will be going out shortly. In December our Christmas Tree will be going up, and the board for the Christmas Raffle will be set up for your entries - great prizes will be on offer!

With best wishes for a good autumn, a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year,

Petta Dillaway

Chair, Friends of Fareham Community Hospital