



Patrons:

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

FFCH NEWSLETTER 27 SPRING 2021

Letter from the Chair

Volunteers, Friends and Supporters

This is my first update to you all since I took over the Chair. This is for me a new chapter working within such an amazing group and I am really looking forward to the future. Before I bring you up to date with where we are and what is happening, I must mention Petta Dillaway and the wonderful work she has done and is still doing for the group – I know she is a very hard act to follow. Petta can now concentrate on her passion which is our Memory Group. I will of course be relying on everyone within the group going forward but would like to mention specifically Jill Sadler who will continue as my 'right hand man' and also Petta who has agreed to be a port of call for me for anything I am a little uncertain about.

Jill and I met with Lee Williams, the Tenant Liaison Manager at the Hospital for a brief catch up and to assure him that going forward we, the Friends, will continue to support in any way we can. Lee is very supportive, and I am sure we will be able to build an even stronger relationship with Fareham Community Hospital.

The COVID vaccination programme has really raised the profile of FCH and we only hear positive things around all the volunteers involved in this incredible exercise. They have and still are playing a major role in moving us back into some form of normality and our community should be very proud of them.

The Home Hub Renal Unit for those using home dialysis has been a huge success and has continued throughout the lockdowns. There are major discussions with the Renal Unit in QA to hopefully provide a full dialysis unit at FCH at some point in the future. Nothing as yet has been confirmed.

The project for the provision of chemotherapy for local patients looks like happening in the very near future but no definite date has yet been announced as the team are still working on the most appropriate accommodation within the hospital. This will be another huge gain for FCH.

The same day transport project, still on hold, will happen as soon as restrictions are lifted, and we can commence any required training for our volunteers. Watch this space.

It is really great to see some movement towards normal life again and being able to spend time with friends and family – time that we have all missed, I am sure. It will be lovely to get

back to planning our future events with total certainty once again and I look forward to meeting everyone at some point in the not-too-distant future.

With very best wishes to you all

Anne

Anne Hannah-Ford (Chair)

Friends of Fareham Community Hospital

Local Covid Vaccinations

We have been very lucky in our area in the way the Covid vaccinations have been rolled out. Early in December our Primary Care Networks began organising and giving the jabs. Teams from the Sovereign Network (Whiteley, Jubilee and Highlands GPs) set up their hub in Fareham Community Hospital, helped by volunteers, including many from the Friends of the Hospital. Some of the volunteers are pictured below. The volunteers have been providing guidance for patients, car parking, refreshments for the hardworking vaccinators and volunteers, and administrative support.

Brook Lane Surgery, our neighbour from the Coastal PCN, which includes Lockwood and Stubbington GPs, also started vaccinations in December, so that by the end of the year many of the first people eligible, the over-80s, had had their first jab. As at the Community Hospital, the Coastal PCN at Brook Lane have also been helped by volunteers.

When vaccinating began again in early January the GPs were back in action. At the Hospital they worked eight-hour days, and by mid-January had achieved 1,000 Covid vaccinations. They then concentrated on our local Care Homes, followed by the age group roll out and second jabs as recommended by the Government. In our area we are now down to the under-40s. The team at the Community Hospital has achieved over 26,000 jabs, and a similar number has been reached by Brook Lane. Many congratulations and thanks to all involved.



The Hospitality Team

Refreshments for the vaccinators and volunteers has been provided by the Friends Hospitality Team. It has now expanded from the original four (Barbara, Alice, Gina and Petta) and we have now recruited more from the Friends Volunteers. Chris Miller, Dorothy West, Kathryn Edwards, Janet Armitage, and Sandra Allen have joined the team. Most

weeks there are six to eight clinics. Covering became more difficult as family and jobs began to take demands on time.

Local firms have been very generous; lunch from a local bistro, fish and chips, doughnuts from a local bakery and sausage buns from Greggs. The public have also gifted biscuits and sweets. The Friends have continued to provide all the drinks, cakes, and more biscuits.

We plan to continue until late June or early July, when we hope to have a break.

Memory Groups

The Monday Zoom meetings have continued, arranged by Andover Mind. These have provided contact and information to help carers during what has been a very difficult time, cut off from most other people and help. However, many of our members have been unable to Zoom, and have become increasingly isolated.

However, on Monday 17h May we managed to have meetings back in the Tom Smith Room at the Hospital, with some members from both groups. All who attended were very pleased to be able at last to meet face to face. They are looking forward to the regular meetings returning. We hope to have another meeting in July; the date has to be agreed and will depend on the Government report on 21st June.

It has been a sad and difficult time. There have been several deaths, and others are now permanently in nursing homes. We fear we may have more sad news before we are able to meet again but meet again, we will. We are determined to continue to support these groups.

Please Use 111

We have had an appeal from our local NHS service to encourage people to make more use of the NHS 111 phone line or email. They say:

Help us to help you, and call NHS 111 for urgent care. With local services becoming busier, the NHS is reminding people of the options available should you need urgent care.

The best option if you are not sure what to do is to contact NHS 111 (or go online to 111.nhs.uk) if you need help or advice. An NHS 111 health adviser will assess you, provide support or direct you to the most appropriate setting for your needs. The NHS 111 clinicians who assess you have access to the full range of options and can make sure you are booked into the right service to meet your needs. In many cases they can even provide full advice and care over the phone.

Calling NHS 111 helps you get to the right healthcare provider first time.

AGM 2020-21

A face-to-face AGM during lockdown was not feasible. Instead, we held an online Zoom AGM on Tuesday 9th February 2021. We welcomed Anne Hannah-Ford as the new chair with Jill Sadler and Petta Dillaway taking up the posts of Co-Deputy Chair. We also welcomed Councillor Susan Bayford to the committee with initial responsibility for assisting with fundraising activities. It was agreed at the meeting that in accordance with the Charities Commission rules, the new committee would operate until the next AGM in May 2022. Funds are in a healthy state with some £12,000.00 in our bank account.

The ducklings are back!



We are now on our second batch of ducklings! The first six have already been taken to their new home, and the pictures show the second brood to be born at the Hospital, of which there are seven! These, too, when big enough, will be taken to a new home - either at Holly Hill or one of the RSPB sites. No doubt there will be more to follow! Thanks to the Hospital staff, who feed and look after them out of their own pockets.

Christmas Carol Service

Seems so long ago that we celebrated Christmas Covid Style. We erected a real Christmas tree outside the main hospital entrance and festooned it with coloured lights. Then some 20 Friends met and either stood at a safe distance or sat in their cars, to sing Carols to recorded music. This community activity certainly raised our spirits.



Membership Fees

Membership fees of £5.00 are now due and can be paid by either direct bank transfer to our Barclays Bank account; Sort Code: 20-30-89, Account Number: 43888142 or by cheque to our Treasurer, Peter Humphreys. 47 Crescent Road, Locks Heath, Southampton, SO31 6PE. Cheques should be made payable to "Friends of Fareham Community Hospital".

Let's hope we can all begin to meet again soon and resume our usual activities as summer progresses.

The FFCH team, June 2021