

## **FRIENDS OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR APRIL 2019 TO MARCH 2020 (and beyond)**

I hope that you are keeping safe and well. However if the coronavirus pandemic has affected you, your family or friends then we do want you to know that you are in our thoughts at this difficult time. The year for the Friends has obviously finished in a very different way with all our planned fundraising events postponed from the middle of March. Once lockdown was enforced the Friends asked the Hospital what it needed, since when life has been very busy for our Charity. The first gifts to go in were portable radios for patients on the wards to use during their time without any visitors and also large print crossword and sudoku puzzle books. We recognised Easter with a small chocolate gift for all the staff that spent the Easter weekend in the Premier Inn in Bromley. Contact was made with the local Rotary Organisation and local Churches. Several local Rotary Clubs namely Chislehurst, Bromley, West Wickham, Ravensbourne and Orpington have responded along with Biggin Hill Residents Association, West Wickham Residents Association and Petts wood 41 club pledging money to be used for the specific project of "Providing what is needed during the Covid 19 pandemic". The hospital set up a Staff Hub where staff could go to find a place of rest and support away from the very stressful situation of nursing the coronavirus patients in full PPE equipment. This has enabled us to provide ready single portion meals, large trays of mixed fruit, face cream, hand cream and shower gel. We have also facilitated other donations from local businesses and organisations namely freshly cooked meals from Hisar Turkish Restaurant in Orpington, cakes and drinks from Holwood Farm Shop and some hand decorated ceramic mugs for the staff on the Intensive Care Unit from a local potter. Money collected by an Avon representative from her customers and members of the Orpington Trefoil Guild has provided much needed face and hand creams and shower gels. Some of our Trustees helped Kings Charity by making up 300 wellness boxes which included gifts and treats for the hardworking staff. All the various gifts sent in to the hospital have been very well received and much appreciated.

I am very pleased to say that from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May due to the position within the hospital easing we have been asked to cease sending in ready meals and try and resume our more normal function of supporting the hospital with projects that improve the environment for all patients, staff and visitors.

Last summer we had a new volunteer join our committee, Bernard Jayasundera, who has taken on the responsibility for our Website. During this crisis it has been updated weekly and I would urge you to visit our website if you have the technology to do so. Our interim newsletter went out again in February to all our members on e-mail, so these members may recognise some of the content of this report. If you are still to give us these details then please let us have your e-mail address and you will be included.

Our sales tables and events have once again been very profitable. Special sales have been our Easter Tombola, Train Track Money Trail and Autumn Sale. A Cheese and Wine and Speaker Evening in early December was attended and really enjoyed by just over ninety people and was closely followed by our Carol Playing in the Entrance Hall for six nights in the week prior to Christmas. This year we have also had young people wishing to help our Charity. The 4<sup>th</sup> Bromley Cubs were working on their Community Badge and invited me along to explain how our Charity helped the hospital. This resulted in them collecting, for example, tinned food, pasta and cereals to go in the Kings Hampers. "Our little hero Olive" aged 8 years ran 3k in a Beckenham Park on Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup> and has raised £1,000 on her Just Giving page.

The total raised by our fundraising stalls and events this year amounts to £10,887. In addition a further £28,284 has been raised in donations, subscriptions, gift aid repayments and interest.

Our major purchases for the Hospital this last year include:

- Radiology Department, new bench seating in all waiting areas funded jointly with The Chartwell Cancer Trust
- Refurbishment of Relatives' Rooms and Staff Rooms in the Medical Assessment Unit, Accident and Emergency Department and Medical Wards 1, 2, 4
- Refurbishment of the Bereavement Suite Interview and Waiting Rooms. The latter funded by Dean Wilson, Funeral Directors, and pictures provided by the Marina Patterson Trust
- 2 Sorrento Specialist Chairs for the Stroke Unit
- 200 Dementia friendly clocks for all ward areas, patient bays, side rooms and clinics
- Bereavement book and display cabinet for the Hospital Chapel
- Christmas money to all Wards and chocolates to all Departments who work over the Christmas and New Year period

We continued to finance during the year the small items which can be just as important namely, toiletry packs for patients admitted through A/E, ear plugs and eye shades for patients having to spend the night in A/E, food for the Kings Hampers, clothes for patients being discharged, money for ice lollies for children on the Day Surgery Unit and £100 towards the prizes for the Patient Dignity Awards. A full list of purchases can be viewed in the accounts which are published on our website. We have been providing a Trustee or member to serve tea at the "Look Good Feel Better" makeup sessions for patients receiving cancer treatment.

Major events already cancelled due to Covid 19 have been our Easter Tombola and our May Charity Performance at Bromley Little Theatre. We have our usual amount to spend on hospital projects in the current financial year, nearly £29,000, but like many Charities our expenditure for the year 2021 to 2022 will be seriously affected with the curtailment of our fundraising events. This is why we have so appreciated the support given to us by local Rotary Clubs and other local organisations and smaller individual donations mentioned in the first part of my report. This money has meant that up to now we have largely managed to retain our funds for use on hospital projects.

I should like to thank Diana Smith who has been a Trustee for ten years for all she has done on the committee and wish her well in the new opportunities that she wishes to pursue. We are delighted to have three new committee members who have joined us during the year and have already made significant contributions to the work of the Friends and have agreed to carry on to the AGM in 2021. I should like to offer my sincere thanks to the officers, Vice Chairman Wendy Reeves, Treasurer Sally Panton and Secretary Pam Thomas for all the help they have given to me, and to the remainder of the Trustees who all have a role to ensure the smooth running of the Friends. I should particularly like to mention Debbie Hutchinson, our Director of Nursing and Jonathan Lofthouse our Site Chief Executive for all their support given to the Friends.

Pauline Allard

Chairman, Friends of the Princess Royal University Hospital