

Chairman's Annual Report for the year to 31st March 2024

The last twelve months have proved to be very challenging for most Charities, and "The Friends of the PRUH" has been no exception. It feels that we have had to work much harder to raise less money than in previous years. However, we have been able to support a variety of requests from many different areas of the hospital.

We have raised funds by holding Table Sales regularly at the Hospital, selling Christmas cards during the Autumn and holding a stall at Chelsfield Village Fair last July. Whilst all these events made us money, other factors detract from their profitability e.g. the cost of postage and the rise of social media have led to a rapid decline in the popularity of card sales.

During the last year we have made grants for projects to support both staff and patients such as a staff kitchen refurbishment, sensory fibre optic play equipment and colourful children's furniture for the Paediatric Emergency Department, a Wound Care Simulator for staff training and printing for the Chaplaincy Bereavement Service. We provided many radios, cd players and toiletry items for the Adult Medical Care Group and we are funding a year's trial of a "Magic Table" which features a range of games and sensory experiences for patients with dementia and other learning disabilities. We continue to give the wards a sum of money at Christmas which helps the festive atmosphere for those who are unfortunately hospitalised over Christmas and the staff who care for them. "The Friends" also continues to fund the Oncology Travel Scheme where children from Bromley are transported by Cannon Cars to other hospitals in SE London for their treatment. Please refer to the annual accounts for a more detailed list.

Following the departure of Rob Chidlow, the Finance Director, Sam Dale, Business Manager, has taken the role of liaising with The Friends, suggesting and managing projects that would be appropriate for us to support. We thank Sam for her time and energy, and we look forward to continuing to work with her and the new Director Nikki Greenwood.

The next twelve months will also be a challenge, but not necessarily in the same way as the last twelve. Our secretary has resigned from her post having given 15 years' service to "The Friends" and by this time next year our current Vice Chair and the Treasurer are also standing down, both having given many, many years of service. I doubt that it will be easy to find the right people to fill those roles. We will endeavour to do, so thus enabling The Friends to move forward and continue to support the hospital as we have in previous years. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in joining our committee, please contact us via email at secretary@friendsofpruh.org.uk.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Trustees, Committee members and volunteer helpers for all their efforts this year. We would not have been able to achieve all that we have without their help.

Peter Harris

Chairman

The Friends of the Princess Royal University Hospital (Farnborough, Kent)