



Chairman`s Annual Report 2018

Your Worshipful the Mayor, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is with great pleasure that I give my annual report on the activities of the Friends of Eastbourne Hospital for the year ending 31st August 2018, although I will mention some activities that have occurred in the nearly three months since that date.

The aims and objectives of the Friends of Eastbourne Hospital have remained much the same in the 70 years since it was formed. I realise that these have been mentioned in previous Chair`s reports over the years but I think they are worth repeating. They can be summarised as follows:

- 1) To provide funds for extra services, equipment and amenities for patients and staff at Eastbourne DGH and the related community services, and to make donations where the expenditure has been recommended by the NHS Trust, and has been approved by the Committee.
- 2) To encourage voluntary work in the hospital.
- 3) To provide a link between the hospital and community.

The Charity is managed by a Board of Trustees who are elected and, thereafter, re-elected at three year intervals at the Annual General Meeting, whilst its officers are subject to annual election and re-election.

This year has been a special one for the Friends as it is 70 years since it was formed. The Eastbourne Hospital Patients Association started in April 1948, 3 months before the NHS, and after some changes over the years developed into the Friends that we know today. Since 1948 the Friends of the Hospital have raised in excess of £16million. The first statement of accounts showed a balance of £239/1d in comparison with the most recent two annual figures of £600K and £1million.

One of the first donations in 1949 was a radiogram for the maternity hospital at 9, The Avenue (always known as No.9). Recent fundraising has included £1million for a Urology Da Vinci robot, £500K for a CT scanner, £380K for Radiotherapy, and many more for over £100K, including our three major projects for the year just finished.

Much has changed over the years. In 1956 a Friends` minute extract said "It was noted that a favourite budgie at Downside had passed away and the secretary was instructed to arrange for its replacement". One year`s maintenance for a budgie was 2/6d! In that year a total of £1000 was gifted to the hospitals. Compare that to now. Originally the Friends acted as a conduit for complaints to the management, one of which was a gentleman who complained that nobody was available to take the betting slips!

So it was imperative that the Friends celebrated this 70th anniversary. In April a dinner was held at the All Saints Hospital Chapel, a fitting venue as it had been part of the old

All Saints Hospital. Presentations of certificates were made to many of our main sponsors and donors as a thank you for all their support over the years. And then in May we were honoured to have Princess Alexandra come to the hospital to unveil a plaque celebrating 70 years of the Friends. This plaque is now in place outside the Friends office. Her Royal Highness visited the CT Scanner the Friends had bought for the Radiotherapy Unit last year, as well as meeting many of the Friends` volunteers and donors. Some of you will remember that Princess Alexandra opened the hospital in 1977 and she enjoyed revisiting and seeing the positive changes to the hospital that have occurred since then.

Funds are raised for the Friends in a number of ways:

- 1) **Shops and Trolley Services**
- 2) **Legacies and in Lieu Donations for Flowers**
- 3) **Donations and Fundraising from the Eastbourne Population**
- 4) **Friends own Fundraising Activities**

1) Shops

a) **Two shops** - a main shop in the entrance to the Hospital, and a small outlet by the staff side entrance to the Hospital. The shop profits continue to rise every year.

b) **A Flower Shop** - this is in the hospital car park by the entrance barrier. Since moving out of the hospital foyer takings are down a little but the shop is doing ok. The flowers are beautiful, long lasting, and great value so I encourage you to buy yours from there. On several occasions in the year volunteers have taken a table to the Arndale Centre and raised several hundred pounds from sales there.

c) **A Trolley Service** around the wards for the convenience of staff and patients who are unable to visit the other shops.

d) **A Morning Sandwich Trolley Round** to all wards and departments for the convenience of the very busy staff who feel unable to get away or need to be flexible with their lunch breaks.

Plans are currently underway to open a small coffee shop in the new year in the foyer area outside the Radiotherapy Unit in conjunction with the Macmillan team.

2) Legacies remain an unpredictable but very important source of income. Many donations are also received **in lieu of flowers**, contributing £1000s throughout the year. We are very grateful to relatives who, in their time of bereavement, still think of us and we can assure them that all donations are gratefully received and make a significant contribution to our activities.

3) Donations:-

Can I take this opportunity to thank all the individuals and organisations who have donated money to the Friends over the last year. I wish to mention a few of these.

a) Lisa Harrison who has been very generous in her support and recently held a curry evening at the Shiplu restaurant in Bexhill that raised an astonishing £1001.

b) Heather and Nigel Harper held a Barn Dance and Hog Roast in June at Carter`s Corner which was great fun and a huge success and raised over £2000. This was on top of Heather`s leading role in helping organise the Open Gardens.

c) And Pippa Logan who raised £900 at a garden party at her home in July.

All donations, however big or small, have been gratefully received and all are very, and equally, important to the Friends. For example 3 trustees and myself spent a wonderful hour at the hospital creche being entertained with singing, and the children kindly gave the Friends a cheque for £137. Many other people also raised money in different ways but they are too numerous to mention them all. Waitrose tokens, Solicitors with the Free Wills, Southern Combination Football League (£600), Voices Choir of Pevensey Bay and Eastbourne (£1668), and Chatsworth Masonic Lodge (£600) are but a few of these.

4) Friends Fundraising Activities - I cannot talk about all of the fundraising events but I will talk about a few. Some of the following have been happening for several years but are still hugely popular and continue to raise a lot of money for the Friends. Sadly, however, there was no ball this year due to the building work at the Winter Garden and the Friends 70th Anniversary dinner.

a) **"Battle of the Bottles Wine Tasting"** - In March Henry Butler of Butlers Wine Cellars and Tom Surgey from Ridgeview Winery went head to head with three wines each for us to try. After a short and very amusing talk from each about their wines, we tasted them and then had to vote on what we thought were the best. Henry Butler won 2:1 this time but they will be back next March to repeat the challenge and entertain us once again. The evening raised £470.

b) **The Open Gardens Scheme** this year welcomed some new gardens, including some in Eastbourne. I must particularly thank Gill Wooley and Heather Harper who, with their team of helpers and volunteers, worked tirelessly to make it yet another record breaking year, **raising just over £24,000**. After last year's record it was not thought possible to beat that but they did. And of course our thanks go to the many owners who willingly allow members of the public to invade their gardens whilst raising funds for us.

c) **The Tennis Tournament** was enjoyed by 32 players this year. It was a dry day with a very enjoyable tea. This event is organised by Bo Phillips and I thank her and her team very much for all their hard work. Nearly £870 was raised with a further £495 match funded from Santander. Extra funding of £26 was raised by Dr Rob Wicks playing in the last round in a tennis skirt.

d) **The Cream Tea and Summer Fair** was held at East Dean Village Hall for the fourth year in a row. It was extremely well attended and guests, as well as having a delicious tea, enjoyed various stalls and musical entertainment. The event took £3200 in just 3 hours. We would like to thank our many sponsors for the event including Shades, Surridges, Arlington Tea rooms, Boreham Hill Nursery, Hilliers, and Flowers Green Plants.

e) **The Sugar Ray Charity Golf Day** was held in early October at the Royal Eastbourne Golf Club and as always was a very enjoyable event. Again we are very grateful to the Golf Club who could not have been more helpful. And particularly Ollie Hodges from the Eastbourne Motoring Centre for organising the event, and the many local companies that help sponsor holes and refreshments for the participants. Again, as you heard at the beginning of the meeting, it raised a record amount of nearly £10,000.

f) **The Art Exhibition** was held once again at St Andrew's School during the October break. I am very grateful to Ann Caffyn and her team for organising another record breaking event. Like many other of the Friends' events the amount of organisation is huge. I am also very grateful to the local artists who show off the talents at this event. The exhibition raised nearly £4,400 almost the same as last year.

g) Throughout the year we have also benefited from a number of coffee mornings generously hosted by many individuals with the proceeds coming to the Friends. The annual **Christmas Fair and coffee morning** held at St John`s Church Hall 10 days ago is one of the biggest of these. And once again my thanks go to the organisers, particularly Bo Phillips, and volunteers for all they do to make this and the others highly successful. Earlier in the year Rosemary Cameron held her annual **Spring coffee morning** at her new house which once again was a great success raising nearly £1500. Rosemary`s homemade orange marmalade is the best. I am down to my last jar!

h) The **Dine around the World** series continued but with only two events within the year due to the Friends 70th anniversary celebrations. In March an excellent meal was held at the Belgian cafe who also kindly donated £1 for every beer sold, and a tour of the brewery as a raffle prize. This was followed in October by an evening at the Spice Garden. Both of these dinners were sell outs. We would like to thank all at these restaurants for supporting these events, particularly Greg and Stefan at the Belgian Cafe and Moz and Abdul at the Spice Garden. They raised £962 and £1088 respectively.

i) There have been **two quizzes** held at the Fisherman`s Club this year, the second of these was only last week. They were, as last year, hugely popular and all tickets for both were sold out. Our thanks go to Sue Hitchin for organising them.

The Friends have also benefited throughout the year from numerous other smaller events including raffles, quizzes, and garden parties as well as the continuing collection of plastic milk bottle tops, stamps, mobile phones and ink cartridges, and cards which can be recycled. All these donations and contributions, however big or small, count and without them we would not be able to do all we do.

The remade cards team, led by Winnie Watkins, have raised hundreds of pounds each year from their beautiful and very good value cards. And June Tickner, with her stamps, has raised over £30K over many years.

None of this could be achieved without a huge amount of work by event organisers and helpers alike. It is impossible to quantify the amount of work done in voluntary hours. As mentioned in my Chair`s report last year it can be estimated as over 20,000 hours each year and everyone of those hours is hugely appreciated by myself and the Friends. Can I mention two volunteers in particular who after many years of transporting tables, chairs and signs to the Friends various events have decided to call it a day. Malcolm Lawrence and David Attree, we wish you all the very best in your retirement from the Friends. I also wish to mention two other people who have given up their time to support us but have decided it is time to step aside. David Lambird has been a trustee for many years and a co originator of the Sugar Ray Golf Tournament. And lastly, but by no means least, Glen Stone. Glen has given free legal advice and support to the Friends for years but has decided it is time to retire. We thank David and Glen very much for all their help over this time and wish them a long and happy retirement.

What has all this activity achieved?

Official openings of the Radiotherapy Unit and the CT suite occurred in year and I am delighted to say that plaques in recognition of the Friends donations are outside these two areas. The official opening of the CT scanner purchased by the Friends in 2017 was last week.

The financial year ending 31st August 2018 has been another highly successful year with the Friends receiving and raising well over £600K. This is not as much as the previous year, which was the best on record, but in that year the Radiotherapy Unit was one of the major projects which attracted huge donations not normally seen. This year's funds are more in keeping with previous years.

So how did the Friends spend the funds received? The three chosen major projects amounted to a total of about £250K. This amount is less than the major projects the previous year but gave the Friends the scope to fund other projects for other parts of the hospital as the year progressed. As I am sure you remember the three major projects were to purchase equipment for:

1) Swallow Disorder Clinic (£52K) - Fibreoptic Endoscope - A Fibreoptic endoscope allows a simple and safe way of looking down the throat, watching the patient swallowing, and seeing if the cough is effective to clear the airway if needed. This allows a safe eating and swallowing plan to be made for each effected patient. You will hear more about this when Anita Smith gives us a talk on the service after I finish my report.

2) Replacement of dental surgery equipment in Maxillofacial and Orthodontic Department (£100K) - The bid included replacement of the dental chairs and their mounting systems, suction units, ceiling mounted lights, storage cupboards, and other things. This, plus the building work the Trust did, has made it a state of the art unit for many years to come.

3) Cardiology (£98K) - Echocardiography Machine - This has increased capacity within the service with a new machine that is both quicker and has better picture processing power making it easier to pick up heart problems earlier. This will also reduce the need for additional and more invasive tests, some requiring hospital admission.

However the Friends have been able to provide, or agreed to provide, equipment to other departments some of which are on this list:

• ENT - Glynde Ward - 2 laryngoscopes	£15,500
• Ophthalmology - Pentacam	£27,000
• Stroke Therapeutic garden	£3000
• Stroke Rehabilitation - I-pads	£2000
• Urology - 2 bladder scanners	£13,500
• Anaesthetics Videolaryngoscopes	£27,000
• Psychiatry Unit - gym equipment	£4,000
• Admissions Lounge - Blood pressure machines	£9,500
• Admissions lounge - bladder scanners	£6,500
• Physiotherapy - water bikes, chairs and tables	£7,300
• Women`s Health - Investigation couch	£9,000
• Critical Care - Intensive Care Beds and workstations	£13,000
• Paediatrics - bladder scanner	£4,700

Other equipment was also purchased for Firwood House, Podiatry, Radiotherapy, TV for Friston Ward, Day Surgery, and much more. So as you can see the Friends have supported many departments as technology continues to advance in medical equipment.

The Friends have continued this year to provide **Educational Bursaries** for up to £2000 per year from a legacy left a few years ago to the Friends, not for equipment, but "for the benefit of staff at Eastbourne DGH". This year the trustees have given £500 each to two trainee midwives to help support two weeks further training abroad in Vietnam. They observed the way other midwifery services work. We hope this experience will be useful in developing Eastbourne hospital's midwifery led services when these two midwives qualify. Bursaries were also given to two nurses on the Urology Investigation suite, the reasons for this will become more apparent later in this presentation.

These annual bursaries will continue to be allocated in open competition and must be of benefit to the hospital. We hope that we have more applications to choose from in the coming year.

The Friends also hold a number of **Educational Talks** given by hospital consultants for the general public on advances in their specialty and, as previously, these talks were some of the best and very popular. This year Anita Smith from the Swallow Disorder Clinic and Dr Andrew Marshall from Cardiology spoke about their services as a whole, and the impact the equipment the Friends bought in year has or will have on these services. The third talk was from Dr Phil Mayhead on gastroenterology, a service we have supported in the past and hope to again in the future. We thank Peter Rimmington for organising these talks this year.

There are many invitations from various organisations for the Friends to come and talk to them about us. This role has in the past been carried out by the office staff but for the last two years we are delighted that Ulrica Delaney from Right at Home has volunteered to take these on, on behalf of the Friends, with the support of one of the trustees and has done a great job. Donations to the Friends often follow these talks.

The Future:-

The application for financial support for major projects was run in the same way as last year. The Trust ran a Dragon's Den where departments from across the Trust presented their bids to representatives of the 5 Friends organisations within the Trust. The Friends of Eastbourne Hospital agreed to support a few small ones as we had already agreed on the big major project for 2018/19.

So what is the major project the Friends of Eastbourne Hospital is supporting this coming year? If you remember the Friends purchased a Da Vinci Robot for the Urology Department a few years ago which helped to make Eastbourne a Centre of Excellence for Urology Cancer Services. This coming year, the Urology Department's footprint in the hospital is doubling in size to form a huge area to include Urology Outpatients, the Urology Investigation Suite, and an Enhanced Care Unit for inpatients requiring more intense nursing. The Urology Investigation Suite will double in size from 5 to 10 rooms with some nurse led clinics. This all means patients can be seen, investigated, treatment plans, and dates given for surgery, if indicated, all on the same day. This will shorten waiting times for cancer surgery. The Enhanced Care Unit, a new development, will contain 4 male and 4 female beds. The Trust is starting the building work very soon and the Friends have agreed to fund £500K of equipment for both these developments. I am told that departments from around the country are very interested and impressed by what is happening in Eastbourne. I am sure you will all agree that this is very exciting for Eastbourne and I am also sure you will help support the fundraising for this project.

I am delighted to say that the Trust Chairman and CEO have continued to support the Friends. For this we are grateful as the efforts of the Friends are very much more appreciated. Peter Nash and I gave a presentation to the Trust Board in the summer which seemed to go down well. We were surprised at how many of the Board didn't fully appreciate how much work the Friends did for the hospital and we hope that our talk there will lead to an increased presence at some of our future events. These are difficult times for the Trust so I wish David Clayton-Smith and Adrian Bull all the best in continuing to further improve quality of care, and in moving the Trust's finances in the right direction. I am personally saddened that David Clayton-Smith is leaving the Trust soon to continue his other careers in health.

What about the future of Eastbourne Hospital? I think the success of the Stroke Unit and Pevensey ward speak for themselves and I have mentioned in previous years the large contributions the Friends have made to that success. The Da Vinci Robot has made our Urology service a regional centre for urology cancer services. And now this new Urology development the Friends are supporting in the coming year will only enhance that. And then there is the new Radiotherapy Unit. I think the confidence in the future of the hospital is reflected by the success of this past year's fundraising and the generosity of the people of Eastbourne in both giving their time and their money to the Friends. It is important that this Eastbourne population confidence is built on by the Trust, and that services that are currently here are maintained or further developed.

I would like to thank all the trustees, Debbie and Sue in the office (they do the work of at least 3 people between them), and the shop management for all the support and hard work that they continue to give me as Chair of the Friends which has made my role so much easier. Without it, none of this could have been achieved. However my biggest thanks must go to you, the members of the Friends, volunteers and helpers, and the population of Eastbourne who so generously support us in all our endeavours. You make all this possible and without you none of this is achievable. It is an honour to be chair of this great organisation. However, please can I make a plea for more volunteers to help us. Speak to your friends and relatives. However little time you and they can spare is very much appreciated.

It is impossible to pick out individuals or else I would be here forever, but I have already mentioned a few. But can I apologise to anyone who has donated or raised money for the Friends, or given up their time to volunteer, who I have not mentioned. Please be assured your efforts are as much appreciated as those I have mentioned.

Mister President, that concludes my review of the year. I am happy to answer any questions members may have. But if there are no questions I would like to propose that the meeting adopts this report.