

Friends of North Somerset Community Hospital



NEWSLETTER February 2020

Firstly we would like to wish all our Friends a belated Happy New Year.

Some of you may be aware that last year NSCP (North Somerset Community Partnership) were sadly not successful in their bid to remain as the Community Healthcare Provider for North Somerset and as such the contract was awarded to Sirona Health Care Community Interest Company. Sirona are an established provider formed from the Bath and North East Somerset PCT and in the same style as NSCP they are a 'not for profit' provider. We are saddened to hear that NSCP will no longer be the provider as we have enjoyed a close working relationship with them since 2011 but many of the staff will remain in their positions with Sirona so we are assured that we will enjoy a smooth transition to the new company.

In October Janet Rowse, Chief Executive of Sirona, joined the Friends' committee meeting. It was a very reassuring meeting as far as the future of the hospital is concerned in these uncertain times. She confirmed that they have no intention of closing the site and the beds will continue to play an important part of the care package offered to the residents of North Somerset. They will also be looking into developing a range of Services to go into the hospital and thankfully the excellent Minor Injury Unit and outpatients' service will continue.

Sirona also confirmed that they were agreeable to the Friends continuing with plans for providing a new conservatory for The Little Teapot. Planning Permission has been granted and quotes for the contractor are being sought as this goes to press. Work will commence as soon as a contractor has been appointed and we look forward to seeing the 'New' Little Teapot. The Little Teapot continues to provide a good income for the Friends with the last twelve months raising just under £5000.

The Friends have agreed to fund the venue for the Gordano Valley Leg Ulcer Clinic at St. Andrews Church Hall, Clevedon for another year. This runs on a Monday morning from 9.00 a.m. until 12.00 noon with a strong team of 28 volunteers who support the running of the Club on a weekly basis.

The Friends continue to provide the hospital and clinics with equipment and furnishings and this year we have provided several patient examination couches, two patient monitoring machines, Ophthalmoscopes, a non-contact thermometer for children, an examination lamp and a shower seat.

Due to the increasing numbers of patients attending the Minor Injury Unit they have needed to open up a second waiting room and so the Friends have also purchased 18 chairs and colourful book shelves for a children's waiting and play area. Total expenditure for the patient kit and the waiting room was just over £8000.

In the last 12 months the Friends have spent £21,600 on equipment, £2,500 on newspapers for patients, £840 on staff teas/coffees and £300 on Christmas presents.

The Outpatient department continues to thrive with clinics being hosted from all the three major hospitals in the area. There are clinics covering Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Audiology, Musculoskeletal, Heart Function, Parkinson's, Neurology, Gynaecology, Cardiology, Orthopaedics and the Falls service. All of these clinics require medical referral so cannot be accessed directly by patients. The GP Out of Hours Service also operates from the outpatients building in the evenings and weekends which can be accessed by ringing NHS 111 for advice and appointment if necessary.

The Friends also funded the Christmas Tree for the Hospital grounds which was kindly provided by Shoplands Sawmills who have supported the hospital over many years. As is customary we provided presents for the inpatients who were resident over the Christmas period and also some treats for the hardworking staff and some Curzon vouchers for the wonderful volunteers (who give up their time in the Little Teapot and the Ward) as a token of our gratitude.

We are very grateful to those who leave us legacies which enables us to continue our work helping the hospital, they are very much appreciated. Thank you.

Finally the Committee of the Friends of the hospital would like to thank all those who have become a Friend for their continued support.

Anyone wishing to volunteer for providing tea and coffee duties at The Little Teapot or to work on the wards with our inpatients then please contact Voluntary Action North Somerset (VANS) via Bernie Micklewright on 01934 4416486 or 07950 228227.

Our AGM is planned for 6th May 2020 at 7.00 p.m. and will be held in the new Little Teapot if construction is complete or failing that in the new waiting room in the Minor Injury Unit on the ground floor. We hope to see you there.

We hope you've valued reading our Newsletter and hearing about the very good use we have made of your contributions. The annual membership minimum of £5 includes the production and delivery of the Newsletter. Many thanks to those who have already paid in the last twelve months, but if you have not been able to send a contribution, as a member, this can be sent direct to the Friends of NSCH account at the Nat West Bank sort code 52-21-39 a/c 02805308 adding **SUBS and your name** as the reference, or by cheque made payable to **Friends of NSCH** and sent to North Somerset Community Hospital, Old Street, Clevedon BS21 6BS. I'm sure you will understand that, moving forward, Newsletters can only be sent to paid up members.

Those wishing to contact The Friends can email: friendsofnsch@gmail.com

Don't forget you can follow us on our Facebook page. 

