

# LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF ALDEBURGH AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Registered Charity No 247890

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT MAY 2016/MAY 2017

I am pleased to say that 2016/17 has been a better year for Aldeburgh Hospital. We have an excellent new matron, Michelle Fletcher, and she has managed to solve most of the staffing problems which we have talked about over the last few years. Michelle is hoping to be coming to our AGM to introduce herself.

You will no doubt remember the contract to run Suffolk Community Healthcare (SCH) was given to a consortium of West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust, Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust and Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust. Since last year the difficulties with this arrangement have been recognised and largely overcome. Indeed, there are encouraging signs that when the contract is renewed in October it will be let for a much longer period and that Ipswich Hospital will play a more prominent role. This would be excellent news as we could see a much more joined up approach between "acute care" and "care in the community". Neill Moloney, the Managing Director of Ipswich Hospital, is hopefully coming to talk to us at our AGM and it will be very interesting to hear what he has to say.

As always, the League of Friends remains focussed on improving patient care and keeping our hospital "state of the art" and this we continue to do providing equipment that is very much focussed on improving patient wellbeing. Future projects we are trying to get underway are replacing the X Ray machine (as the current one, provided by the Friends 20 years ago, is about to be unmaintainable), Wi-Fi for patients and staff, and improvements to the rear garden.

After many many years at the helm our Jean Flick is retiring as President of the Friends. Jean has been truly amazing and Aldeburgh Hospital would not be there without her efforts. She played a fundamental part in raising the £500k of funds which enabled the new ward to be built. She was Chairman for many years and then President. We owe her an enormous debt of gratitude and she will be greatly missed. She knows everyone and everything about our hospital. I am hoping she will still be able to offer me wise words of advice.

During the year, we have received gifts, legacies and donations from many people, to whom we are most grateful.

I have been privileged to have a very able and enthusiastic committee, who have taken on responsibilities in different areas: selling goods from the trolley on a weekly rota and now also taking round a book and magazine trolley as well; helping in the Day Centre each week; organising our fund-raising events and collection boxes; maintaining gardens and hanging baskets and running our projects. All have given time and expertise freely. They have been invaluable and have offered their services so willingly and imaginatively. A particular vote of thanks to those (as well as Jean) who are leaving the committee, Nicky Gray and Anne Parsons (though Anne will still be managing the garden team and refurbishment). A big welcome also to those who will be joining us. It is a really worthwhile organisation to be part of - and enjoyable too!

I can assure you we are doing what we can with your generous help to develop our hospital and maintain and enhance its vital place in our community. Very many thanks for all your support.



Tony Bone March 2017

**Dates for your diary: Garden Party – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July; Coffee Morning – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November Church Hall.**