

### Friends of Surbiton and Tolworth Health Community Annual General Meeting to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022

#### ITEM 4 CHAIR'S REPORT

##### ACTIVITIES:

Covid-19 continued during the year from April 2020 – March 2021, with all the concomitant restrictions of lockdowns and limited opportunities for staff to meet and for patients to have visitors. It was still possible for newspapers and chaplaincy services to be provided to patients at Teddington Memorial Hospital, though the entertainment provided regularly by Hedley Kaye had to cease and Hedley subsequently retired. The Friends would like to send all best wishes to him and to give thanks for the work he has done for patients at various sites in Kingston and Teddington over the years.

Despite Covid, however, the landscape gardeners were able to work at Hollyfield House and on August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020 the David Wooldridge Memorial Garden was opened. David had worked at Kingston Primary Care Trust and its predecessor organisations for many years; Friends' Trustees and Yourhealthcare staff were delighted to welcome members of David's family to this event. They were thrilled at the work itself and the thought that staff and patients at Hollyfield House will be able to use this space in his memory.

*While it is not usual to include  
photographs in a Chair's Report to*

*an AGM, this is an exception!*



In November 2020 the Friends gave a wreath to the British Legion on Remembrance Day and in December Xmas presents and cards were delivered to patients at Teddington Memorial and Tolworth Hospitals.

### **ACTIVITY AFTER MARCH 2020:**

Although beyond the end of the year under review, I would like to record that Derek Hirst died in May 2021. In conjunction with his wife Anne, Derek had been a stalwart member of the Friends for many years. The Trustees are arranging for a tree in Richmond Park to be tagged in his memory and we hope this will take place in the spring.

### **THE FUTURE - Organisation:**

Trustees have met with Ian Garlington from St George's Mental Health Trust; we discussed the possibility of a role for The Friends at StGMHT in the future bearing in mind the lack of contact between the two bodies over the past few years. A conversation was also held with Julie Sherlock from Yourhealthcare about what sort of organisation would be helpful to YHC.

The 2019/2020 Friends Annual General Meeting did recommend that the Trustees investigate the possibility of working with Kingston Hospital League of Friends. However, following the death of Derek Hirst (bringing numbers down to five) and noting that several Trustees wanted to stand down, it was agreed that the Friends of Surbiton and Tolworth Health

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Community should be disbanded with effect from March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022. This would give both StGMHT and YHC the opportunity to set up their own organisations in the way they want.

### **THE FUTURE - Funds:**

Remaining funds in the Friends' bank accounts will be divided between St George's Mental Health Trust and Yourhealthcare in the ratio of 25% to StGMHT (to be spent for the benefit of staff and patients specifically at Tolworth Hospital) and 75% to YHC.

### **FINALLY:**

Final accounts for the period from April 2021 to March 2022 will be prepared in the usual way and posted on the Friends website for an agreed period.

This will therefore be the final Annual General Meeting, so I take this opportunity to record thanks to the many people who have worked for and with the Friends in its various guises over the years, including those who have continued to make financial contributions.

The most notable reference must be to Pip Mumford, who was Secretary for many years. Pip ran the Friends with calm efficiency and precision; I would suggest that if she had stuck to her wish to retire sooner than she actually did, then the Friends would have folded sooner too!

I can only speak of those whom I knew, but I have very fond memories of Mary Hews and her wonderful sense of humour. Jenny Butler and I shared the experience of looking at artwork together in Queen Mary's Hospital, Kingston Hospital and Surbiton Hospital when organising a Photographic Exhibition, while Julie Sherlock provided the continuity between the Friends and Yourhealthcare in such a cheerful and efficient way. The contributions made by Anne and Derek Hirst have been mentioned above - and what can I say about David Wooldridge that has not been indicated by the creation of the DW Memorial Garden?

Without Patrick O'Sullivan as Treasurer we could have given up sooner. His calm approach and wry sense of humour provided me with a great deal of support, for which I am very grateful. As for the rest of the current

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Trustees (Polly Healy, Helen Hutson and Ray Stonehill) – thank you for all your help, patience and tolerance over the years.

Thank you for all the support given to me when I took over as Chair in March 2018. It has been an interesting time and I do not feel that, given the national and local circumstances, the Trustees could have done much more than keep the show on the road for another few years in hopes that the health environment would settle down. There were signs that this may have been about to happen, but then Covid-19 struck and life will never be the same again.

I would like to send every good wish to any group who can carry on the varied work that was once done enthusiastically by very many people. It is so worthwhile and my regret is that the current volunteers (myself included) are not getting any younger. There is scope and potential to make life a little better for patients and staff at both Tolworth and Teddington Memorial Hospitals and I hope sincerely that someone will step forward soon and take the baton forward.

Sandra Berry