



**Patrons:**

Alderman Brian Bayford, Councillor Seán Woodward, Lucy Docherty, Mark Hoban

## **FFCH NEWSLETTER 29 Autumn - Winter 2021**

### **Letter from the Chair**

Volunteers, Friends and Supporters

Christmas is almost upon us and life within the Friends continues to be very busy.

We held a very successful Volunteer Open Day in October and are in the process of recruiting a number of new members to our various teams. This process is taking a little longer than we would like as we are moving providers for our necessary official paperwork, and we have a new volunteer coordinator. I hope our new recruits will bear with us.

Our Memory Group has settled into their new premises and more information is contained within this newsletter.

The chemotherapy unit is due to open in the New Year, and we look forward to this much needed new service within the hospital. The date has to be confirmed.

Our same day transport system is taking a little longer to get up and running as we have a shortage of volunteer drivers. If anyone out there would like to offer a few hours a week then please get in touch with our Treasurer, Peter Humphreys, who is coordinating this much need initiative.

The big news for this edition is that there is an ongoing project by the NHS to provide a full renal facility within our Community Hospital. Timescales are very fluid at the moment, but I will keep you all informed of progress. Once we have a firmer timescale, we will be launching a major fundraising campaign to support this project so please watch this space.

Please come and join us for mulled wine, mince pies and hot chocolate at our Carol evening on 11<sup>th</sup> of December.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a hope for a more normal 2022.

Best wishes – Anne Ford

Anne Hannah-Ford (Chair)

Friends of Fareham Community Hospital

## News from the NHS

Millions of patients will benefit from earlier diagnostic tests thanks to 40 new community diagnostic centres set to open across England. The new centres will provide easier, faster, and more direct access to the full range of diagnostic tests needed to understand patients' symptoms. They can provide multiple tests at one visit, reducing the number of patient journeys needed, and are open seven days a week.

Backlogs of diagnosis checks have built up, due to the pressure on hospitals and clinics to deal with Covid-19 treatment and vaccinations. These new centres will deal with this and reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmissions. GPs are able to refer patients to a centre so they can access lifesaving checks sooner than has been the case.

The two centres in our area are at St Mary's Community Hospital, Portsmouth, and The Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton.

## Memory Groups

Our two Monday Memory Groups for people with dementia and their carers restarted in September at the Royal British Legion Park Gate. British Legion have been most welcoming and helpful, and we will remain there until space has been reorganised after the opening of a Chemotherapy Clinic in the Tom Smith Room at the Hospital. The Hospital are hoping to have the Chemotherapy Unit up and running by Spring 2022.

Both Memory Groups have flourished since reopening face to face, particularly our Afternoon Group who have at least 4 new guests now coming with their carers. The Morning Group has also had new faces, and we have Derek our new Andover MIND advisor, who attends both sessions for advice on either an individual or group basis. Thank you to Derek and the Volunteers who help each week to make sure our guests benefit from the weekly sessions, giving them time to socialise and relax.



We have just held a very successful joint Christmas party for all our guests. This took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December and was in the main function room at the British Legion, complete with food, raffle, dancing, and live singers on the stage! A big thank you to all the FFCH Volunteers who worked so hard to make sure our guests had a lovely party. Also, to the Social Care students from Fareham College who came along with their tutor and contributed in the helping and entertaining of our guests. More about this with photos in our next Newsletter.

## **Volunteer Gardening Group**

Our Volunteer Gardening Group continues and not just on the roundabout! Although that does take up quite a bit of time to keep free of weeds and thistles!

Following our recruitment “open Day” when people could come and meet us and hear about our different activities and groups, we have had 3 people interested in joining the Gardening Group - Sara, Grace, and Gavin. We hope to formally recruit them in to our new FFCH Volunteer system soon, and meanwhile have invited them to come up and meet the rest of the Team.

Amanda our Volunteer horticultural advisor has been up to look at the internal courtyard gardens and is drawing up plans for us. We are going for a Mediterranean / Japanese look, with no ground cover. A local gardener is also coming to dig out all the large tree and bamboo roots and the smaller weeds including horse/mare’s tail. Once cleared we can lay a membrane to stop the weeds regrowing and then pave or shingle and plant some small trees. The centre courtyard will have a small central statue or sundial, and we hope to have it all completed in time for the opening of the Chemotherapy clinic, giving patients a nice outlook whilst they sit having their treatment.

We have also put up a Christmas tree again this year in time for our Christmas Tree Carol event on the 11th of December at 6.30pm, with mince pies, mulled wine and hot chocolate provided. Dress up warm and bring a torch to read the carol song sheets. We have very kindly been given the tree by Abbey Croft Nurseries, and it has been erected outside the entrance of the hospital. Thank you, Louise, and David from Abbey Croft Nurseries.

See the flyer about the Carols on the 11th, and Happy Christmas to all our Friends and Supporters.





### **FFCH Volunteer Refreshment Group and Vaccination Clinics**

Our Volunteer Refreshment or Hospitality Group has been kept very busy running nonstop refreshments for all the Sovereign Covid vaccination clinics that have continued to be held at the Hospital. Since starting the booster programme over 15000 vaccinations have been administered, so as you can imagine a lot of volunteer help and a lot of refreshments! There will be a 2 week break over Christmas, and then they will be back to it!

### **Fareham Community Lottery**

The Friends of Fareham Community Hospital is now a recipient of funding from Fareham Community Lottery. The funding is derived from the sale of lottery tickets and if you wish to support FFCH in this way, while at the same time having an opportunity to win cash prizes of up to £25,000.00 every week then go to [www.farehamlottery.org.uk](http://www.farehamlottery.org.uk) and search for Friends of Fareham Hospital or use the QR code. FFCH receives 40p per ticket sold.



## Play today and support our cause!

- Make a difference to the community and support our cause
- Sign-up for only £1 a week!
- You get the chance to win cash prizes up to £25,000 every week!
- We get 40p from every £1 ticket
- Join your community in making where we live an even better place

To start supporting, visit:

[www.FarehamLottery.org.uk](http://www.FarehamLottery.org.uk)  
and search for: **Fareham Hospital**



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older



QR code for FFCH lottery tickets

## **Membership Fees**

Many thanks to all those members who have paid their Membership fees for this year.

The membership fee remains at £5.00 and can be paid by

either direct bank transfer to our Barclays Bank account  
Sort Code: 20-30-89, Account Number: 43888142

or by cheque to our Treasurer,

Peter Humphreys.  
47 Crescent Road,  
Locks Heath,  
Southampton,  
SO31 6PE.

Cheques should be made payable to "Friends of Fareham Community Hospital".

Best regards

The FFCH team, December 2021